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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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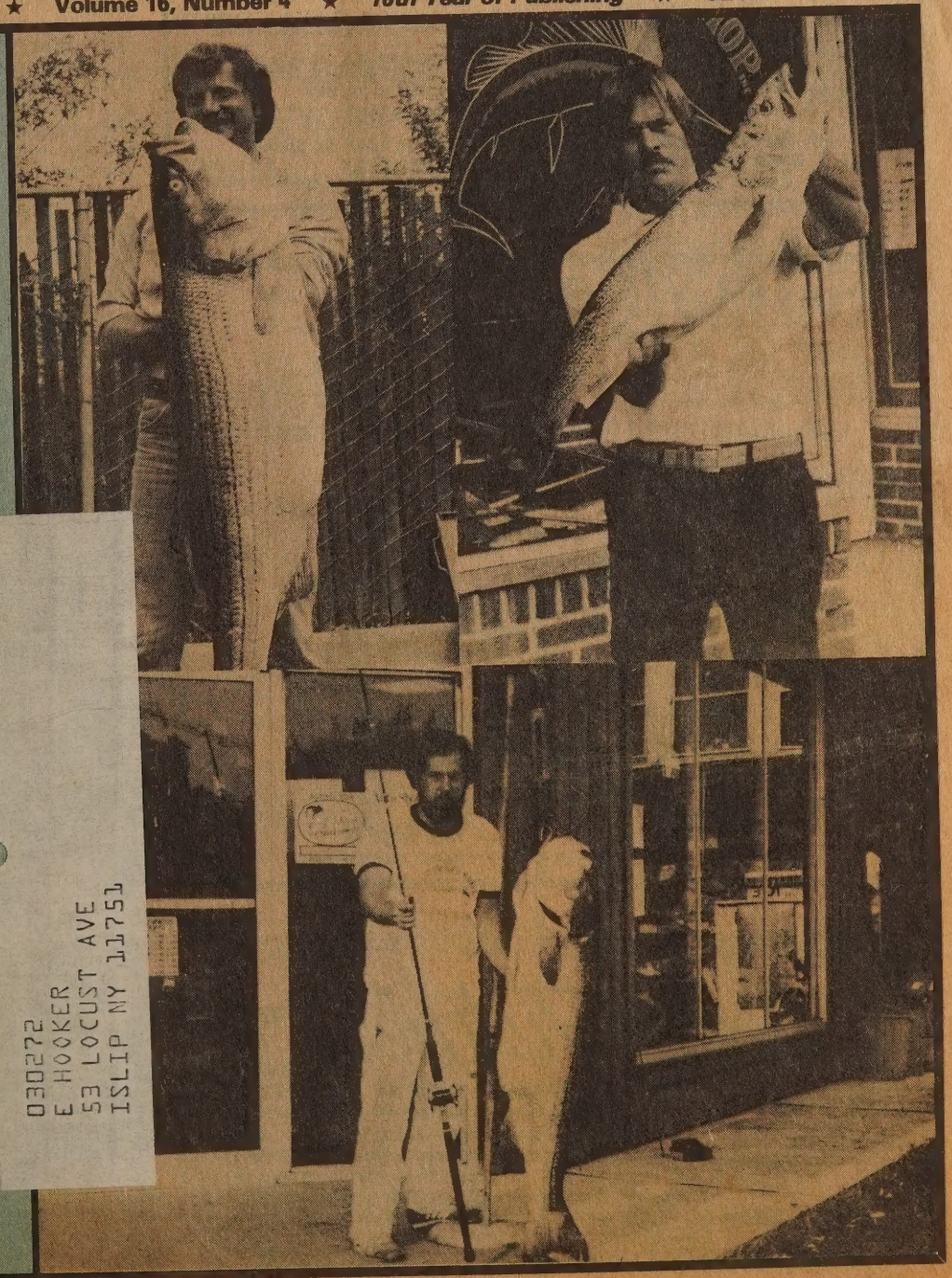
January 29th, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 4 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

1980 WORLD RECORDS



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STRIPER SURF CLUB OPEN HOUSE

The Striper Surf Club, Inc., is holding its annual Open House, February 6, 1981, 8:30 p.m. at the Plattdeutsche Park Restaurant on Hempstead Turnpike in Franklin Squire. This function will be of interest to the novice as well as the advanced surf fisherman.

There will be an excellent speaker who will give a talk on surf fishing and techniques, to be followed by a question-and-answer period. A film will be shown and demonstrations in rod building, reels and reel repair, and plug display will be given. Beer will be served; no minors will be admitted.

Reservations are a must. The numbers to call are: Bill Roth, 212-358-0217 and Barry Simon, 516-785-2404; weekdays from 6PM to 10PM and weekends from 10AM to 10PM. There is no charge for this event and people are urged to call as early as possible as the hall will only hold 125 people.

BOATING

BOATING COURSES

The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 12-3 will conduct a 10 session Safe Boating Course at the Hicksville High School, Division Ave., starting on Tuesday evening **February 3**, at 7:30 p.m..

The course is free and is open to all sail and powerboat enthusiasts. Further information may be obtained by calling Flotilla Commander Marty Wrona at 933-7587, or Public Education Officer Harvey Notov at 681-0993.

BOATING COURSE

Flotilla 1-3 will be offering a course on Boating Skills and Seamanship. The 7-week course is designed to develop greater understanding of power boat operation and safety. The course will be taught on Thursday nights from 8PM to 10PM at East Islip Sr. High School, Redmen St., Islip Terrace, with the first class starting **February 5, 1981.**

Starting **March 5, 1981** from 7PM to 9PM, Flotilla 1-3 will be offering a Young Boatman's Safety course for young adults ages 10 through 15. The course is required for anyone of the above age to lawfully operate a mechanically propelled boat alone in

The Long Island FISHERMAN

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Volume 16, Number 4 **January 29th, 1981**

Features:

NATIONAL SCENE ..... Al Ristori 7

Fish Talk:
HOW DOES THE WIND START?..... William A. Muller.... 8

Sinker Bouncing:
BECOME A MASTER FISHERMAN .... Matt Ahern.....10

Surf Fishing:
THE JETTY GAFF ..... Michael Campanelli ..12

TACKLE DOCTOR ..... Fisherman Staff 14

CODFISH COMMENTS ..... Fred Guardineer 15

Plug Making:
QUICKIE "RABBIT PLUGS" ..... John Schauer 16

TIDES AND CURRENTS ..... William A. Muller....18

WEAKFISH POPPING PLUGS ..... Pete Barrett 21

1980 RECORD ASSAULT ..... Fred Golofaro 22

BASIC KNOTS—Part One ..... Gerald Hahn 24

DEPARTMENTS:

Pass It On 2
Boating 2
New Products 4
Fishing Reports 27
Fisherman's Classified 34
Free Offer 36

About the Cover—

Three significant records were established in Long Island waters last season. For an inside look at the stories behind these catches, see "1980 Record Assault" beginning on page 22 of this issue.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **SMALL CRAFT NAVIGATION**

Richard Reina PUBLISHER
Al Ristori ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Fred Golofaro EDITOR
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Rick S. Reina PRODUCTION MANAGER

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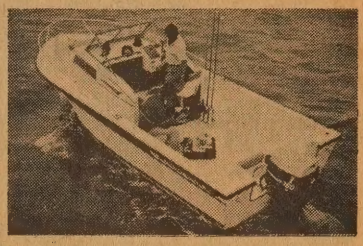

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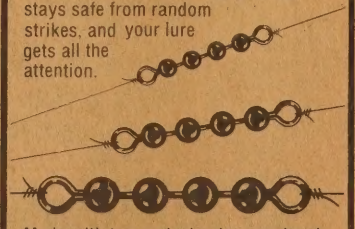

Made with two swivel points per bead for lure action without line resistance, the rustproof all-stainless steel Invisi-Swivel slides smoothly past snags and through guides. Use it for trolling, or still-fishing - to draw more strikes. Choose from 4 sizes, 25 to 175 lb. test.

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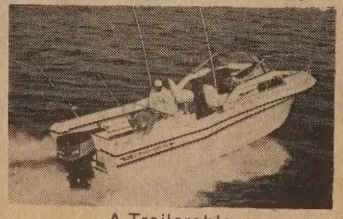

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New York State waters. The course consists of four, two-hour lessons and will be taught by a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Any additional information may be obtained by calling 589-8354.

BOATING COURSE

The most popular U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, ADULT, 12 lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship Course, will start Tuesday, February 3, 1981, 7:30 p.m. at **Bay Shore Junior High School.** This is the most extensive course given and covers all aspects of Safe Boating. This course will end just in time for boating season to start. Minimum age 17 yrs. For information or early registration, call 795-5620 or 277-5053.

BOATING COURSE IN BRONX

The Bronx Power Squadron invites all boatmen to attend the Public Boating Course that will be held at the N.Y. State Maritime College, Pennyfield Ave., Fort Schuyler, Bronx, starting February 10 at 7:30 p.m. The course is free and is conducted for 12 weeks.

Additional information can be obtained by calling days or evenings: 567-1014.

New Products

NEW VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS BY BRISTOL CORP.

New U.S. Coast Guard regulations went into effect January 1, 1981, and Bristol Products has introduced a product line that will assure consumer compliance with these new laws.

Under new U.S. Coast Guard regulations, boats 16' and over will be required to carry approved day and night visual distress signals and boats under 16' will be required to carry approved night signals if operating after sunset.

Although Coast Guard regulations are enforceable only in coastal waters and the Great Lakes, it is expected many states will follow suit and pass similar legislation pertaining to inland waters.

Bristol Products has continued to supply the marine industry with approved signalling devices since the inception of Coast Guard regulations and standards of performance and has recently received approval for its new product line that is available directly to the consumer.

Bristol now offers the boater complete compliance with new Coast Guard regulations with the safety of bright, fog-piercing light distress signals and dense, orange smoke signals. Three separate packages complete this new product line and each is proven safe, effective and can be seen for miles.

Day and Night Signals by Bristol contain three U.S. Coast Guard approved two-minute, 500 candlepower red distress flares and are proven safe and effective for day or night use. Safe for storage and use, these day/night signals utilize a fog-piercing light that can be seen for miles and are waterproof and floatable.

Bristol's Daytime Distress Signal Kit contains three U.S. Coast Guard approved 50-second orange smoke signals and is the most effective daytime signal kit on the market. Dense, billowing smoke gives the boater added visibility, even in bright sunlight, and its waterproof packaging allows it the floatability so important to every boater.

Bristol also offers a special Deluxe Day/Night Marine Distress Kit, containing three U.S. Coast Guard approved 50-second orange smoke signals plus three U.S. Coast Guard approved two-minute 500 candlepower red distress flares. This deluxe kit combines the advantage of day/night Coast Guard approval with the added safety factor of highly visible orange smoke signals. Safe and effective, this is the package most recommended for complete compliance with all Coast Guard regulations for day and nighttime boating and offers the boater a choice in distress signal use with one package.

These products have undergone extensive testing for dependability, ability to operate under adverse conditions, and passed all tests routine to the marine industry.

Each distress signal features its own totally self-contained energy source, requiring no batteries or bulbs. Every signal is triple protected: each is wax coated, sealed in an airtight, floatable poly bag, and master packed and sealed in vinyl.

For further information, contact: Bristol Flare Corporation, P.O. Box 540, Bristol, Pennsylvania 19007.

NON-GLARE BLACK SWIVEL FROM BEAD CHAIN TACKLE

Invisi-Swivel—a new multiple-bead swivel with a black, no-shine finish that virtually disappears underwater is now available for trolling and still-fishing from Bead Chain Tackle.

The new addition to the Bead swivel family is designed to protect costly rigs from random strikes by predators, who often mistake shiny swivels for small baitfish. With its no-shine "invisibility," it is particularly suitable for attaching a short section of line in front of a lure or bait for still fishing, enabling fishermen to draw more strikes with a lighter line, and minimize line loss in the event of breakage.

Made entirely of rustproof stainless steel, Invisi-Swivel features kink-proof, smooth-turning construction with two swivel points per bead. Its low profile design enables it to slide easily past snags and run through guides without jamming. It is available in 25, 35, 75, and 175 lb. test

sizes to meet a full range of needs. Write for free catalog: Bead Chain Tackle Company, P. O. Box K, 250 Mountain Grove St., Bridgeport, CT 06605.

KERPLUNK FOR GOOD MEASURE

Cortland Kerplunk Lead Core Deep Trolling Line is color coded every 10 yards to give the angler an accurate measure of how much line is out. In this way, the depth of a strike, and how deep to find the next one, can be easily determined. The line is braided of nylon around a dense lead core that takes bait or lures down to the strike zone quickly. Available from Cortland authorized dealers in 18, 27, 36 and 45 lb. tests. It is sold on two connected 100-yard spools.

NEW MINI-BOATS IDEAL FOR LEISURE FISHING

Just about the time you think everything worthwhile has been invented for the benefit of the fisherman, something new, different, exciting and desirable comes along.

Such is the case with the mini-boats now on the market, in a variety of brand names. They come in one and two-person models. They're highly floatable, economical to carry and operate, take rough water well, and have many other features to offer the everyday, not-in-a-hurry angler, according to the fishing experts at Lowrance Electronics.

They're made to serve all types of fishing, and will get you to out-of-the-way and hard-to-reach places where larger boats can't go. Most will accommodate gas-powered outboards up to ten horsepowe or more. Most can be carried on a car top, tossed in the back of a pick-up truck, or trailered big-boat fashion. Yet they're ideal for small lakes, ponds, large streams and such things as strip mine fishing, with a small outboard or an electronic motor.

Their excellent flotation allows carrying a big load too. You can stack on a mid-sized cooler or beverages and food, tackle boxes, rods and reels, and other items without worry of overweight. They're ideal for a portable-type depth finder, too, like the famous Lowrance "Green Box," carried fore or aft as desired, with a suction cup or rod-type transducer holder.

For the beginning angler, or the veteran, if it's leisure, relaxation, economy and convenience you want, take a look at the new mini-boats. They offer them all.

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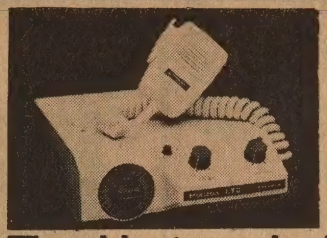

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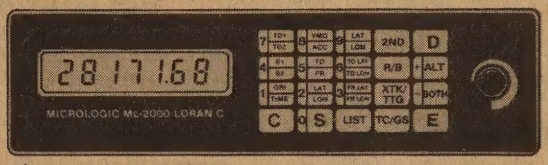

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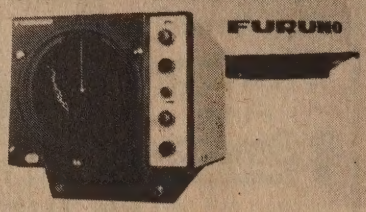
For more info, contact: Public Relations Department, Lowrance Electronics, Inc., 12000 E. Skelly Drive, Tulsa, OK 74128; telephone (800) 331-4105.



NEW DOME-TYPE RADAR

Furuno introduces the Model 1600 radar with a weatherproof, wind resistant radome antenna. Designed primarily for small coastal vessels and pleasure craft, the 1600 provides performance unmatched in this type radar. A totally new microwave 1C cir circuit in the transceiver doubles receiver sensitivity, thereby equaling the performance of much larger radars. The very bright 7" CRT (12" equivalent with integral magnifier), full 3kW output power, 6 range scales to 16 n. mi. and dual pulse lengths produce a truly superb picture. Consisting of just two units, interconnected by a single flexible cable, the Model 1600 is simple to install and the compact display is easily unplugged for safe storage. This radar contains a universal 11-40 VDC power supply and draws an extremely low 50 W.

TWO NEW LURES FROM L&S BAIT

L&S Bait Co., Inc., maker of the popular MirrOlures, has announced the introduction of a new deep-running swimmer and a new surface spinner.

According to William LeMaster, Vice President of L&S Bait, the new model 24M is an addition to the MirrOlure family of deep-runners, which includes the 1M, XM, 2M and the Billfish. The 24M is excellent for bass, walleye, northern pike and pickerel. It is three inches long and produces a swimming action at depths of four to eight feet.

"This flashy lure can be used for casting or trolling when the sun is high overhead and fish are feeding in deep, cool water," LeMaster said. "It is also good for casting lily pads and shore lines."

The new model 21M, also three inches long, is a smaller addition to the MirrOlure family of surface and underwater spinners, which includes the 5M, 6M and Double Scat. It attracts fish to the surface, and is good for fishing both fresh and salt water.

"This new spinner may be jiggled slowly," LeMaster said. "By jerking firmly, you will make the spinners whir. If you retrieve at a steady speed, the spinners will excite the fish into striking furiously. It is an excellent lure for night fishing."

Both new lures are available with or without a spotted finish, and in a variety of colors.

L&S Bait Company has been manufacturing reliable freshwater lures since 1937. In 1950, saltwater lures were added to the line. Presently 83 models are distributed nationally and in some foreign countries. A MirrOlure model is made for every species of game fish.

MirrOlures are available at all bait and tackle shops and sporting goods stores. A complete color catalog and price list may be obtained by sending twenty-five cents to: L&S Bait Co., Inc., 1500 East Bay Drive, Largo, Florida 33542.

TRILENE CLOTHING: BRAND NEW LOOK IN SPORTSWEAR

Berkley and Company has just introduced a spin-off from its popular Trilene monofilament fishing line. Now there's an exciting series of action-wear bearing the famous Trilene chevron and logo. This handsome lineup of clothing makes it easy for the sportsman to look great on or off the water.

All the clothes in the Trilene selection feature comfortable, easy care construction—just what the active man or woman is looking for. The T-shirt and Sport shirt are 50/50 cotton and polyester. The Trilene imprint is prominent on both. Bright red and yellow trim makes these shirts extremely colorful. There's a Trilene nylon windbreaker-type jacket to keep you warm and a lightweight cool mesh hat to shade you from the sun. Add a Trilene patch to your jumpsuit or jeans, then pack all your gear in the handy Trilene equipment bag—and it's off to your favorite hidey-hole!

Send for a **free** Trilene Order Form **or** pick one up inside every box of extra strong Trilene monofilament, at your tackle dealer's or sporting goods store.

For more info, write Berkley, Trilene Clothing Dept., Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.

NEW EAGLE CLAW HOOK ASSORTMENTS

The Wright & McGill Co. of Denver, Colorado, has added two new, unique hook assortments to their famous Eagle Claw hook line. The #601 is for panfish, and the #602 is an all-purpose freshwater assortment.

Each contains 60 hooks of the most popular sizes, styles, and finishes. They are packaged in a reusable box and every hook is genuine Eagle Claw quality in every way.

ATTENTION!!
Would PATRICK FLAHERTY who was at the N.Y. Boat Show, please contact Linda at The Fisherman, 516-725-4200, Ext. 16. We need complete address for your subscription.

NATIONAL SCENE

N.C.M.C. For Tuna Proposal

by Al Ristori

Under the headline "Jersey Anglers Support Ristori Initiative," the December issue of "Right Rigger" reports that the National Coalition for Marine Conservation is supporting my proposal that the giant tuna fishery in the southern area should be restricted to rod and reel. As noted in previous columns, this would not impact negatively on any commercial operators presently fishing in our area—and would ensure that the giant tuna sport fishery in this area would not degenerate into the circus it's become in Massachusetts Bay.

The rod and reel only proposal would also preclude the very real possibility that commercial scale handlining and harpooning would eat up our rather small quota of giants well before the fish leave our waters—possibly even before the fall run in the Mud Hole begins. There is ample precedent for such a restriction in the case of Prince Edward Island. The rod and reel restriction there has proven very effective in providing the greatest economic benefit from a very limited resource. Furthermore, this has been accomplished in a society based on commercial fishing. Every charter boat operator in North Lake is a full-time commercial fisherman, trapping lobsters in the spring and gill netting cod prior to the tuna season. Even those commercials who don't charter are happy to fish with rod and reel for tuna, since the financial rewards of catching just two or three fish a season makes it well worthwhile.

At a recent NCMC Board of Directors meeting in Washington, John Heyer, of Point Pleasant, New Jersey, supported my proposal and was backed by Mid-Atlantic Council member Jim McHugh of Hampton, Virginia. The Coalition directors unanimously adopted Heyer's resolution and will take an active role in seeking support throughout the angling community. In my last column, I reported that Alan Peterson, Northeast Director of NMFS, was unable to provide support for the rod and reel only proposal—but he conceded that the idea has merit, and noted that NMFS would have to take into account a demand for such action from area fishermen. The NCMC support is an important step, and I've also heard from Lou Figurelli, who's pushing the proposal on Staten Island. Now's the time for you, and the organizations you're involved in, to take a stand. Send your letters and petitions to Mr. Alan Peterson, Regional Director, NMFS, Fisheries Management Division, 14 Elm St., Gloucester, MA 01930.

VIMS Helps Sale of Bluefish To Venezuelan Buyers

That distrubing headline also comes from the December issue of the National Coalition's newsletter, "Right Rigger." For years I've been pushing for a bluefish management plan from the Mid-Atlantic Council in order to offset the possibility that a big new domestic commercial fishery (based on an export market) would impact negatively on the sport fishery for bluefish, and create many unnecessary conflicts in the pursuit of this important resource. From time to time, tuna purse seiners have made sets on bluefish for "beer money"—and testimony at a Congressional hearing proved that there was a legitimate offer made by a Japanese firm for a test marketing sample of frozen bluefish to a Massachusetts purse seiner. There have also been recurring rumors that some Washington-based NMFS officials consider the bluefish to be an "under-utilized" species, which could be subjected to an intense commercial fishery if the proper markets were opened up for the end product.

Now the National Coalition reports that a state agency, the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS), has assisted in the opening up of a market in Venezuela for the sale of bluefish taken in pound nets in Chesapeake Bay to Venezuelan buyers. The amount involved is said to be on the order of 750,000 pounds,

(Continued on page 35.)

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How Does The Wind Start?

by William A. Muller

TIDE AND WIND. Joseph Marazano questioned us about the relationship of wind and tide. This topic has been brought to our attention by several of our readers. We think Joe's letter summarizes the questions of most. "All summer I've been meaning to write to you in order to enter the contest (Shakespeare), but I never seemed to get around to it. Tonight I said to myself that do or die, I have to write this letter. The two questions I have relate to my own experience and are questions which other fishermen I talk to also do not seem to have answers for. The first question is one which I've asked repeatedly. I've heard many fishermen say that when the tide changes, the wind will start and it has been my experience that they are right. If there is a wind blowing and the tide changes, the opposite seems to happen. Why does the wind seem to change at the change of the tide. Of course, I'm excluding those times when storms and strong fronts pass through our area."

MAYBE SO! When the tide moves, there are countless billions of gallons of water in motion. This water is not of equal temperature everywhere. That is, the deeper water is colder than the surface and the water inside bays and other estuaries is warmer (during the fishing season) than the ocean water. Now wind is the movement of air that is set in motion by unequal heating and cooling. The unequal heating and cooling produces convection currents in the air and we feel these currents as wind. There is no doubt that large masses of water of differing temperatures can help cause convection currents in the atmosphere. Thus, it is possible that a change in tide can be associated with a change in wind of some kind. However, during the main fishing season, which would be the months of May, June, July, and August, the chief factor that affects winds is the time of the day. Why is this? To begin with, weather air masses in summer tend to be more "flat" in summer than in winter; i.e., the highs are less high and the lows are less low. Strong weather winds are associated with air masses that differ markedly with respect to air pressure and air temperature. We refer to these substantial differences as gradients. The greater the gradients, the greater the wind velocity. In summer the gradients are minor and thus winds are often light. However, in areas that are next to the sea, a special type of wind develops. In summer during the day, the land is warmer than the sea and, therefore, the air above the land rises and cooler air above the sea moves towards the land in order to take the place of the air that rises over the land; thus, we have a sea breeze. Such winds are local winds. Make a short trip inland and the wind will almost miraculously disappear. At night when the temperature between the sea and the land is at a minimum, these movements of air stop and that's why it frequently becomes calm at or immediately after sunset. At dawn the wind will not usually spring up right away because it takes a few hours for the sun to heat the land. Thus most sea breezes are afternoon phenomena. So it may often appear that an afternoon wind springs up as the tide changes, but that in actuality may be a coincidence. Now, the timing of that afternoon breeze may be influenced by the tidal stage, which may further contribute to the confusion.

TIDES AND THUNDERSTORMS. Another similar relationship has been pointed out to us. This involves summer thunderstorms and the stages of the tide. People tell us when the tide is ebbing that thunderstorms will travel down Long Island Sound, but when the tide is flooding, the storms will move across the land—either Long Island or Connecticut. We have studied this phenomenon for about ten years since it was first suggested to us and we indeed have found that there seems to be a relationship. The relationship is not absolute and we have observed storms whose behavior was contrary to the rules; still, most of the time, it seems to work. Why might this be so? Perhaps the differences in water temperatures between the shallow estuary and the deeper ocean is the prime factor. For example: on the flood tide, slightly cooler water from the open sea or the ocean outlet to the sea moves down the estuary and there is a general cooling-off effect. On the other hand, on the ebb tide, the receding warm water tends to warm up the ocean outlet of the estuary and more land surface is exposed along the border of the estuary. Also, the border of the estuary that is still covered with water at low water will be shallower and thus the sun's rays will be more effective in heating the mud or sand substrate. The pronounced difference between heating and cooling of the estuary will be most noticeable in an estuary like Long Island Sound where tidal ranges are commonly six to eight feet and are often about nine feet. Thunderstorms require strong convection currents for their growth and continued existence; that is, very warm, moist air rises rapidly to great altitudes and often at high speeds. The moisture in the rising warm air condenses in the cooler upper atmosphere, while at the same time forcing the atmosphere apart and creating static charges; thus we have a thunderstorm. If the surface of the earth (water) is cooler, then clouds passing over the estuary will tend not to billow out into thunderheads while those moving over the hot land will grow. On the ebb tide, when the shore and shallower water have warmed, there may be both abundant moisture and heat to feed the thunderstorm. This may be one possible explanation for the observations.

JOE'S SECOND QUESTION. "My second question is about an Olympic fishing rod I purchased this year. The rod is model #2090-FG and it was purchased at a well known sporting goods store. The rod action is called 'saltwater Mooching'. The problem is that no one seems to know what 'saltwater Mooching' is! I would appreciate it if you could help me out." Sorry, I can't. Never heard the term used before, but that doesn't mean it isn't commonly used. In any event, we'll do what we usually do in situations like this and throw the problem out to our knowledgeable readers. Does anyone know what the rod action reference refers to? Please write in if you do and we'll publish it.

MORE. "At this time, I would like to make a suggestion and a request all in one. I feel that writing elected officials who vote on proposed legislation related to recreational fishing is as necessary to fishing as is putting a hook in the water. I've written many such letters, but I can't help feeling that more readers don't write because they have difficulty getting information about such possible legislation. I've found that the Fighting Chair and Al Ristori's column are my best sources of information about what's going on in Albany and Washington. I've recently joined the American Sportfishing Federation with hopes that such

information would be more plentiful. However, I still see a need for concentrated information. Perhaps LIF could institute a new column that could be printed perhaps once a month and would address itself exclusively to providing such information, and would address itself exclusively to providing such information. I would also like to tell you how much I enjoy your column. Marine biology fascinates me and your column has enlightened me considerably, much to my enjoyment. I can now realize better how interdependent species are for their survival."

WITH CONCERN! Joe ends his letter with the phrase, "with concern about the future of our sport," and a phrase like that is more and more becoming the watchword of recreational fishermen. More and more of us realize that our sport is threatened by a combination of excessive rates of harvest, pollution, and habitat destruction. Joe, there are happily many more fishermen like yourself who are active in the fight to protect recreational fishing. As the years progress, I believe that this awareness will grow to the point where public pressure will eventually force the correction of many abuses. However, that will take a lot of hard work on the part of many of us—if not most of us. We welcome your efforts as you have appreciated ours. About the column idea. We can toss that idea around a little and maybe we can come up with a format that will work. However, at this point we wish to remind you of what you yourself pointed out to us in your letter. Already a substantial portion of our publication is devoted to matters of public and legislative concern. You mention the Fighting Chair and Al Ristori's column, but we have spent a lot of space in Fish Talk on these problems as well. Admittedly, the information comes across piecemeal, but government and Mother Nature do not ration out the problem in equal amounts from month to month. Hopefully, no one devoted to and involved in recreational fishing invents these problems. I think that we all agree things would be better and a lot more fun if there were no problems. Thus, we react to problems. Our readers are the prime ingredient there. That is, most of what we learn from readers who hear this or that, or read this or that and think enough of us to send that information along. Their information gets us "on the scent" and we can begin to try and solve the problem or attack those that threaten our sport. The editorials, and both this column and that written by Al Ristori are all specifically designed to be information sources on these matters. There is an organization to this. Al Ristori's responsibility is chiefly to relate news from "The National Scene," and hence the name of his column. The editorials will deal with specific items that need immediate attention—that is crisis! In Fish Talk, we focus on fish, fishing, the marine environment, and local legislative actions as well as local problems. Sure, there is overlap, but the editor's eagle-eyes catch most of it. We'll continue to give you as much information as we can, but unless we can figure a way around it, there would be just too much redundancy in a new "Information Only" column. Thanks for your thoughts. Why not write in again Joe, and enter the new reel/hat contest.

THANKS TO ANTHONY SCHIAVELLO. Many of you will recall that Mr. Schiavello was a 1980 winner of a Shakespeare Ugly Stik and he has been a frequent correspondent ever since. Most recently, he sent us an article entitled "How The Sea Cleans Itself." "This is to thank you for your kindnesses—directly and indirectly. Your mini-lectures in the magazine are very interesting, instructive, and comprehensive, etc., and I have become one of your disciples as it were. However, I have enclosed an article that I have found unique. I thought perhaps that I could share it with other nature aficionados through the magazine. To me, it was a glimmer of hope for our devastated environment." The essence of the article was that the sea has the ability to recycle pollution at a rate and extent that we never really understood. Thus, our polluting ways may not be terminal!? Out of space, so we'll continue this discussion in next week's column.

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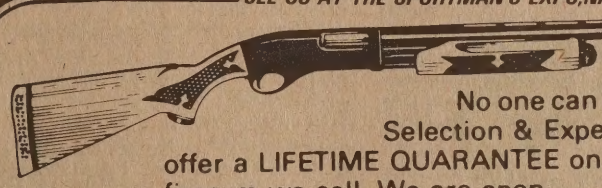

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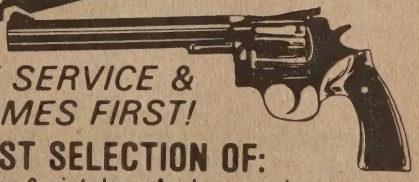

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SINKER BOUNCING

Become A Master Fisherman

by Matt Ahern

You are right should you believe it takes a lot of gall on my part to tell anyone how to become a master fisherman. I do not consider myself in this category. But I know fishermen who are. I've always had problems putting fish in my bucket, while these fellows—these master fishermen—seem to do so with little difficulty. How they accomplish this is beyond me. But I do know I am definitely not one of them. Should I need proof of this, all I need do is think back over my sixty years of bottom fishing and try to recall one time—one time, mind you—in which I've outfished these fellows. I can't remember one. You'd think that with this much experience on tap, fish would just jump into my bucket. But they don't.

But those fellows—ah!

Throughout those long sixty years, I've fished with scores of sinker bouncers on a buddy-buddy basis. Some I still fish with, a few have become lost in the shuffle, and several are no longer with us. Yet of all these, there has been only a handful whom I consider to be master fishermen.

Sure, when I first began fishing, anyone who caught more fish than I did was a "master fisherman." Although during those tender years, I didn't use that term—to me, these fellows were just good fishermen. It didn't take long, though, before I reazlied that those "good" fishermen were just average. They caught fish whenever the fishing was good, and they suffered the pangs of defeat along with the rest of us whenever the fishing was poor. But then as I became more aware of my surroundings as I began to put in my time, I noticed certain fishermen who seemed to catch fish no matter what the existing conditions.

Because my first love in the game was, and still is, party boat fishing, most of those fellows have been party boat fishermen. But not all. I've skiff-fished with several, dunked bait from shore with many and, of course, found a goodly selection among private boat fishermen. And all had the same things going for them—which I'll tell you about shortly.

One of my first meetings with a true master fishermen happened over a half-century ago, but it is still vivid in my memory.

It occurred during codfishing time in late December, 1930. I can't give you the name of the Sheepshead Bay party boat because I failed to write it down in my record book. We fished the Cholera Bank that day. And it was a real bummer.

During those long-gone days, the Cholera Bank was the place for cod. Often the action was so hot, cod were decked before the boat was securely set on its anchor. Double-headers were far from uncommon. But not this day.

Most everyone was clustered at the stern and as the hours passed with not

The proof of the pudding.

a bit of action, we fishermen were pretty discouraged. There wasn't one cod on the boat. We had already made several moves, hitting this spot and that spot, all places known by our skipper to be good cod producers. But no dice. We were biding our time, waiting for those three merciful whistles which would bring the day to a close and put an end to our agony. Our failure certainly wasn't the skipper's fault. He had done his best to get us fish.

Most fellows had long since stopped fishing. Some were dozing fitfully while seated on overturned butter tubs; some were eating sandwiches and drinking coffee; others had gone below for a snooze or a bit of warmth. None was in a jovial mood, which is unusual for party boat fishermen.

Then this skinny fellow whom I knew only as Sal, lay his rod against the rail, reached inside his oilskins and brought forth a big, old-fashioned pocket watch and announced to one and all: "Well, I guess it's time to do it, fellers."

I snapped to attention. I didn't know what he meant, but from the way I felt, he could have been threatening suicide and I wouldn't have been one bit surprised. To a chorus of "Go get 'em, Sal!", this fellow packed up his gear and moved to the bow. I strode along—not to fish, but to watch what he was up to.

What follows is from my record book, but even without its aid, I would have little difficulty in recalling exactly what went on.

Sal first removed the regulation 8/0 Sproat cod hook with its eighteen inch snell and replaced it with one several sizes smaller on a leader approximately three feet long. He then removed the standard eight ounce bank sinker and substituted one somewhat smaller—perhaps six ounces, but I'm not sure—it could have been lighter. He then pawed through the skimmer pan and set aside a half-dozen or so long strands of meaty strings, complete with their brownish siphons. One of these double-stringed baits was woven on the hook in such a manner that its tandem-end dangled about two inches off the hook. It didn't appear to be much bait to offer a cod.

Sal cast this out as far as possible, the sidewinder snubbed tightly between his palms once the sinker reached bottom. Every minute or so, he released the reel and allowed the current to carry the bait farther out. Then it happened! With a command of "Stand clear, sonny!" Sal tightened his grip on the reel and reared back on the rod. And he had a cod! It was as easy as that. Or so I thought.

While the mate gaffed the fish—a ten pounder—I hurried back to the stern and amid warning that I was wasting my time, gathered up my tackle and brought it to the bow. I did exactly as Sal had done: changed my rigging, used the same kind of bait, and all that. But I might as well have been fishing the Great Lakes for all the cod I caught. Before I gave up, Sal had decked four more cod about eight to ten pounds each and a twenty-pound plus pollack.

And then came the three whistles.

To this day, I don't know what Sal did to entice those reluctant fish to his hook. I didn't ask because those other fishermen told me they, too, had gone through the same experience on numerous occasions and never had a bit of luck. All I knew was that it had something to do with the tide.

Now, there was a master fisherman in action.

Since that time I've met Sal's "brothers." Some were reluctant to speak about their prowess, but most couldn't understand what the fuss was all about. They just studied their fish, they said, and—oh yes, they did much experimentation. Then, little by little, by the simple process of elimination, I realized that all possessed much determination to succeed.

But then, so did I. And yet I'm far from being a master fisherman. Why? Beats me. I can say only that I'm sure these fellows are a lot smarter than I am. They must see things in which I place no importance, or things which seem so simple that in my haste to advance, I overlook them.

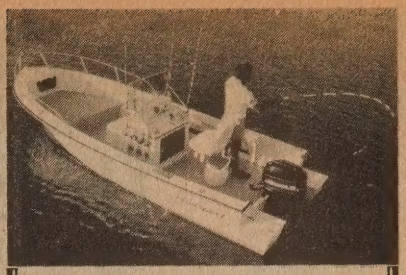
Over the years, as I say, I questioned those whom I thought were above-average fishermen. Gradually a pattern began to emerge. These fellows lived, breathed, and dreamed fishing. That determination to succeed was of prime consideration. They knew all about terminal tackle and how best to use it under varying conditions. Hook selection to be used only in trying circumstances was well understood. Weather signs and how they affected bottom fishing was high on their list, for they knew more of the vagaries of local weather than did even the Weather Bureau. And why not? They were out in it all the time, not stuck somewhere behind a desk.

And they were great readers. Not only that, they read and reread everything pertaining to fishing. Not so much to discover exactly how to do things, as one fellow said, but to pick the brains of those who knew what they were writing about. This, they said, especially in the beginning, was a sure-fire method to avoid the pitfalls. All these things I was told.

Of course, I took their advice and did exactly what had been recommended; but while my fishing certainly improved, I finally came to the conclusion that these fellows possessed a certain something that all my snooping and prying could not discover. So, I'll leave it at that.

Perhaps you are a master fisherman; if not, perhaps you will become one. I hope so. But one thing I beg of you: don't scoff at the title as some have. Those fishermen are out there and it is my wish that someday you will meet one.

If you do, consider yourself the luckiest of the lucky.



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SURF FISHING

THE JETTY GAFF

by Michael Campanelli

I was fishing the front of a local rock pile one night as I watched a fisherman next to me try to play a fish, get on a lower rock and gaff the fish—all at the same time. I asked him if he would like some help, and he quickly answered yes. With two of us, the fish was gaffed in short order. As I climbed up on the rocks, we exchanged gaffs, as I passed him his fish.

He was surprised at the lightness of my gaff, compared with the telephone pole quality of his. As he thanked me for helping him, he remarked how he would like a gaff like mine.

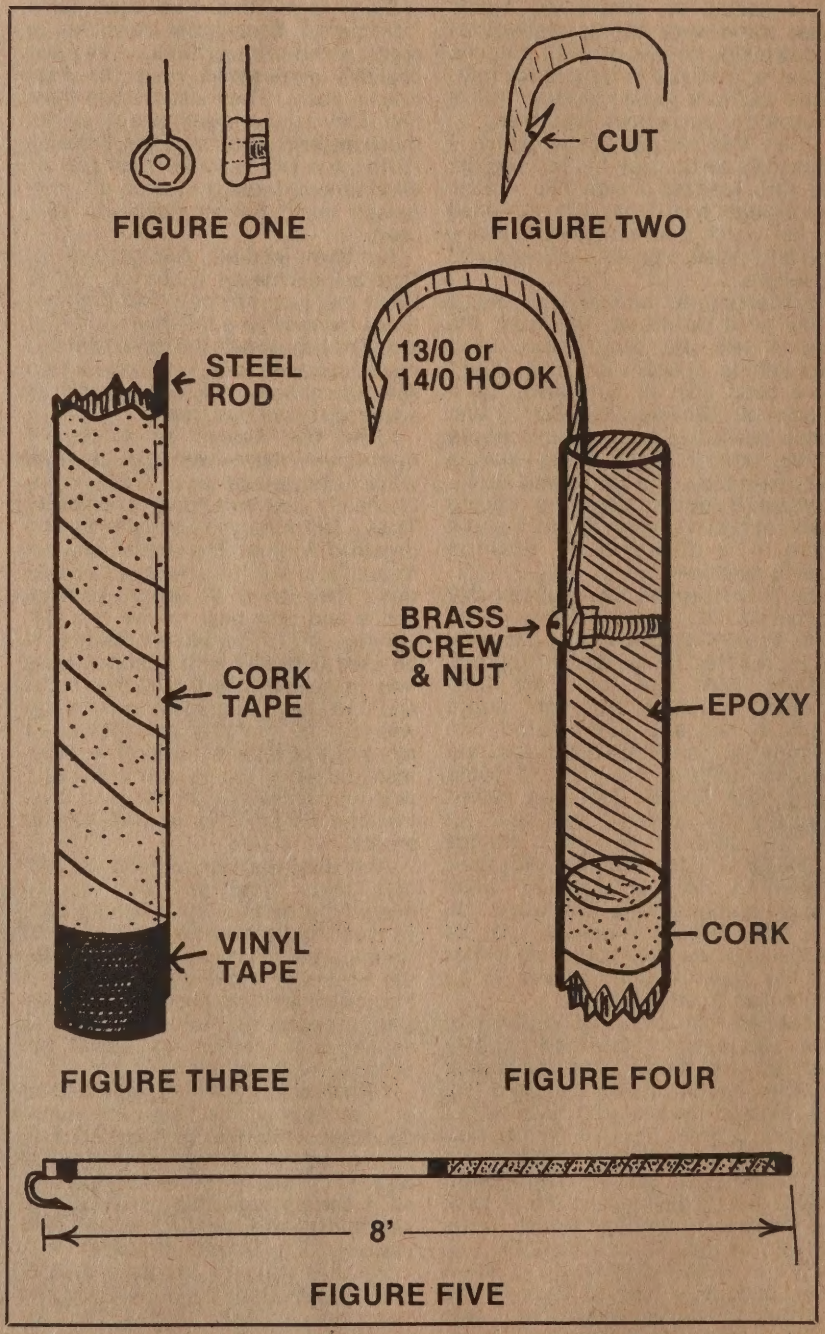
This wasn't the first time someone mentioned that they liked my gaff. As a matter of fact, while fishing my favorite bridge one night, someone liked my gaff so much, that he walked off with it. In all honesty I didn't invent the gaff, but learned how to make it through a fishing club. Now I don't think I'm givng away any big secret, since just the other night I noticed, while fishing a well-known jetty, that all the local boys were replacing their bamboo handle gaffs with aluminum handles. So if you are in need of a strong, long-handle gaff, here are the plans and instructions on how to build one.

The first step will be to get all the materials you'll need. The main thing will be an aluminum tube six to eight feet long with a three-quarter inch diameter and wall thickness of .055 inch. These are available in any well-supplied hardware store for about five dollars.

The working end of the gaff is a sea demon 13/0 or 14/0 shark hook (#H7731) with a round eye. The reason I like a sea demon is because of the large opening between the point and shank of the hook. Also, the point is parallel to the shank, and will give excellent penetration into the fish. If you cannot get a sea demon with a brazed ring eye, a needle eye can be used, but it will be harder to get a screw through the smaller eye.

While you are at the hardware store getting your aluminum tube, get one brass or stainless steel screw and nut, three-quarter inches long. Make sure it fits through the eye of the hook. If they don't have brass or stainless, a marine hardware store will.

Pick up a roll of vinyl tape, and ten feet of cork tape. This is the kind used on the handles of fishing rods. If you want a larger handle to grip, you could probably use hypalon grips.



And finally, buy some good two-part epoxy. Try to stay away from the five-minute variety since they don't seem to hold up as well.

For tools, you should not have to go further than your tool box. To construct your gaff, you'll need a hacksaw and file, electric drill and screwdriver, a pair of pliers, and a vise.

The first step in actually constructing the gaff is to get rid of the barb on

the hook. To do this, secure the hook in a vise, and hacksaw three-quarters of the way through the barb. Using the pliers, snap off the barb, and file any burs. As a word of caution, be careful not to put a nick in the shank or point of the hook as this could cause a weak spot.

Next, mix a little of the epoxy and attach the nut to the back of the eye of the hook and let dry. While you are waiting, make a stopper to fit inside the tube. I use a small dowel that fits easily into the tube, then wrap vinyl tape around it until it is a snug fit. Push the stopper into the tube so the top is below the lowest point of the hook when the shank is inserted into the tube.

Using the hook as a guide, make a mark on the outside of the tube where the eye will be when the shank is inserted into the tube. The shank should emerge from the tube about one-quarter inch below where the hook starts its bend. Drill a hole just big enough for the screw to fit through the tube. Insert the shank of the hook into the tube and secure it to the wall of the tube by tightening up on the screw and nut which is epoxied to the shank of the hook (figure 1).

Mix enough of the epoxy to fill the tube from the stopper to the end where the hook emerges. You may have to stand on a ladder or chair to fill the tube. Tap the tube on the floor to work any air bubbles out. Let it stand for awhile and add more epoxy if necessary. As soon as it is firm, stand it in a corner and let the epoxy dry thoroughly overnight.

When the epoxy has hardened, file down the screw slightly and cover with two or three wraps of vinyl tape, so your line will not catch on the screw when you are gaffing a fish.

Finish off the gaff by wrapping the handle end of the gaff in cork tape or hypalon grips. A piece of coat hanger or small steel rod laid vertically along the tube under the cork tape will provide a small ridge that will always let you know where the point of the hook is on the other end. This is a great help when fishing at night. Cover the ends of the cork tape with two or three wraps of vinyl tape, and your jetty gaff is ready for use (figure 2).

When using the gaff, put the hook under the fish and bring the gaff up fast. This way, the fish will use its own weight to sink the point. Don't hack at the fish like you would chop wood. It's a good way to lose the fish.

When you have the fish on the hook, lift it out of the water hand over hand, straight up. Using the gaff like a net will bend the handle or even snap it.

Remember to file the point sharp before you go fishing. A dull point may not penetrate the fish. For safety, keep a cork or piece of rubber tube over the point when not in use.

You will now have a gaff that is light and strong, and should last for years. May you put it to good use (figure 3).

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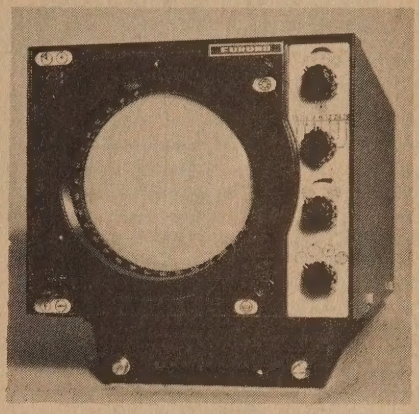

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TACKLE DOCTOR

Reel Maintenance — Part One

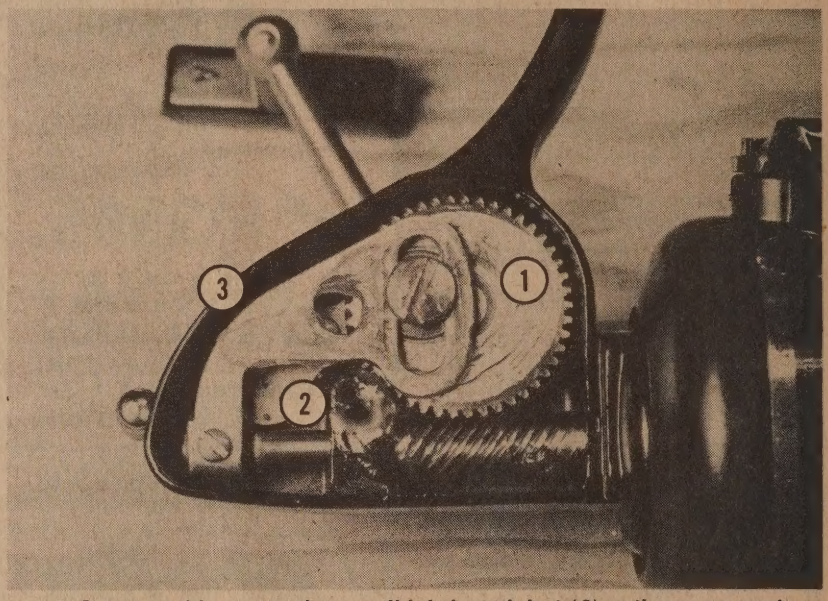
This past summer I purchased a brand new Penn reel, which is supposed to be the best for party boat fishing. I also purchased a new Daiwa spinning reel at the same time for light tackle bluefishing. I took very good care and service of these reels since I paid a lot of money for them and expected them to last a long time and for at least five years. I washed them off with fresh water after every fishing trip and then oiled them with CRC oil as mentioned by the owner of the store where I bought the reels as the best way to keep them in good shape with no saltwater corrosion. After putting them away for a month in November, I recently went to put them away for the winter and found that they had noisy gears in the Daiwa and the reel would not go into free spool on the Penn. Upon opening up the reels for inspection I found green and white corrosion growths all inside the reels. They were never oiled or greased at the factory and, needless to say, I was very mad. How can companies expect people to pay such high prices for tackle and yet they don't make them to last?

How can I repair these reels so they work well again? *Chuck Harrison*

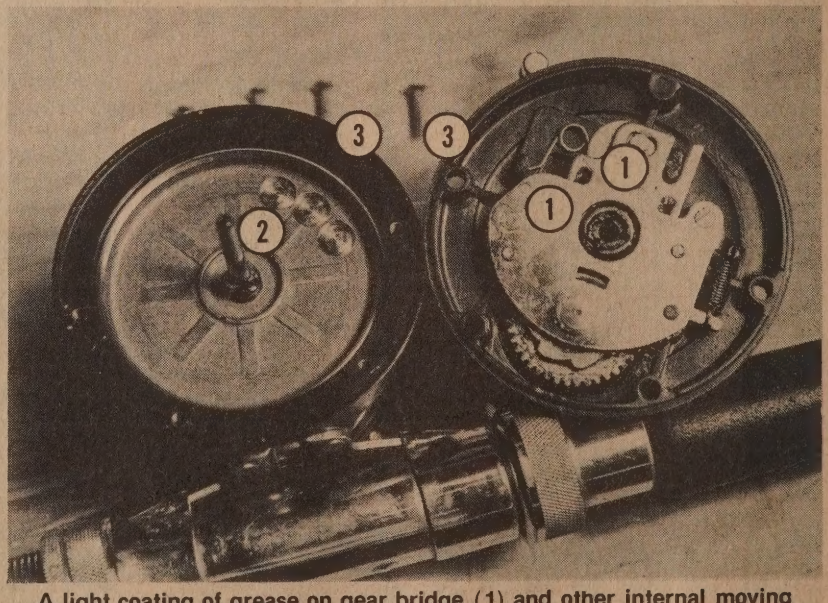
You have opened up quite a can of worms, Chuck, and no doubt you will be both pleased and disappointed at our answer. We agree with you that some reels do come from the factory with a minimum of grease and proper lubrication. We checked five brand new reels of various brands just before writing this reply to your problem and found three of the reels lubricated properly and two with only minimal amounts of grease on the gears and moving parts.

Freshwater anglers rarely get into a lot of problems since the reels are fished in quiet waters, never getting soaked as in saltwater fishing where a single ride on a rough day can soak every reel and rod on the boat. We believe that tackle manufacturers do design their reels to take some water soaking, but not the extreme that saltwater angling can place on a reel. Because of the very nature of angling along the coast, it is imperative that the individual fisherman take good and proper care of his tackle.

Somewhere back in the days of yore, someone (a fool, perhaps) advised fishermen to wash their reels with fresh water. Although you might think that a wash of fresh water would remove salt particles, actually the opposite happens. The stream of water forces the corroding salts deeper into the reel, sometimes into the gears, bearings, and other inner workings. The result, after a few washings, can be disaster—as in your case.



(1) Gears on this new reel are well lubricated, but (2) anti-reverse parts need a light oil or grease. A bead of grease along the edge of the housing (3) forms a watertight seal.



A light coating of grease on gear bridge (1) and other internal moving parts prevents corrosion. Spool shaft should be lubed (2) and a seal of grease applied to edge of side plate (3).

Most reels are fairly easy to service by yourself. If you do not feel adept at disassembling the reels, take them to a local tackle shop for repair, or check the reel instruction booklets for the address of factory authorized repair centers.

In the future it would pay to open up the reel before you go fishing with it. Many of the best fishermen take a brand new one and open the side plate to check on the inner reel. When the reel is new you can easily lube gears, shafts, gear bridges, free spool

(Continued on page 32.)

CODFISH COMMENTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE CODFISH IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE FOOD FISH ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC SINCE MESOLITHIC COASTAL CAVEMAN DAYS. *SO IMPORTANT* WAS THE COD TO COLONIAL AMERICANS THAT IT APPEARS IN THE *MASSACHUSETTS STATE SEAL* AND A GILDED CARVING OF THE *"SACRED COD"* HANGS IN THE *BOSTON STATE HOUSE*.

THE LARGEST COD EVER CAUGHT WAS NETTED OFF MASS. IN MAY, 1895... 6 FT. LONG AND 211½ LBS. THE HOOK & LINE RECORD STANDS AT 98 LBS. 12 OZ.

TODAY'S COD AVERAGE 4-11 LBS. & 60-POUNDERS ARE UNUSUAL.

THE PORTUGESE FISHED *THE BANKS OF NEWFOUNDLAND* FOR CODFISH *CENTURIES* BEFORE COLUMBUS MADE HIS TRIP.

ANCIENT PORTUGESE HAND-LINE CODFISH JIG.

MODERN CODFISH JIG... *A 24 OZ. VI-KE LURE* BY BRIDGEPORT - WITH RED PLASTIC TAIL.

TACKLE STORE COD RIGS COME WITH LOTS OF HARDWARE AND SURGICAL TUBES TO ATTRACT BOTH CUSTOMERS AND FISH. *THEY CATCH BOTH!*

SPORTFISHERMEN CATCH COD MOSTLY BY BOTTOM FISHING FROM ANCHORED OR DRIFTING BOATS. JIGGING AND DEEP TROLLING ALSO WORKS. OCEAN CLAMS ARE THE USUAL BAIT WITH THE SHELLS USED AS CHUM. OTHER FISH BAITS ARE GREEDILY ACCEPTED AS ARE SHINY JIGS.

PARTY BOAT RIGS ARE PRODUCTIVE SIMPLE NO HARDWARE AFFAIRS... A 10 OUNCE SINKER TIED AT THE END OF THE LINE & A SINGLE 6/0 OR 7/0 HOOK ATTACHED ABOUT WAIST HIGH *FOR OPEN BOTTOM FISHING WITH A GLOB OF CLAMS ON THE HOOK.*

EARLY CODFISHERMEN FISHED FROM DORIES WITH SET AND HANDLINES... A HARD AND OFTEN DANGEROUS JOB WITH NO HEATED HAND RAILS.

TILEFISH WERE DISCOVERED THIS WAY IN 1879.

LET ROD REST ON RAIL WITH SLACK LINE. MOST BITES SEEM TO OCCUR ON A *"DEAD"* LINE

10 OZ.

PLUG MAKING HOW TO:

QUICKIE "RABBIT PLUGS"

by John Schauer

The Rabbit Plug, which gained its popularity in Nantucket for catching fantastic amounts of bluefish, is a very easy lure to make. Of course, it itsn't finished as good as the commercial model, but it catches just as many bluefish. The natives on Nantucket carry these things around by the bucket-load, and probably lose them by the bucketful. When you are dealing with good-sized bluefish, you better expect to lose a few plugs.

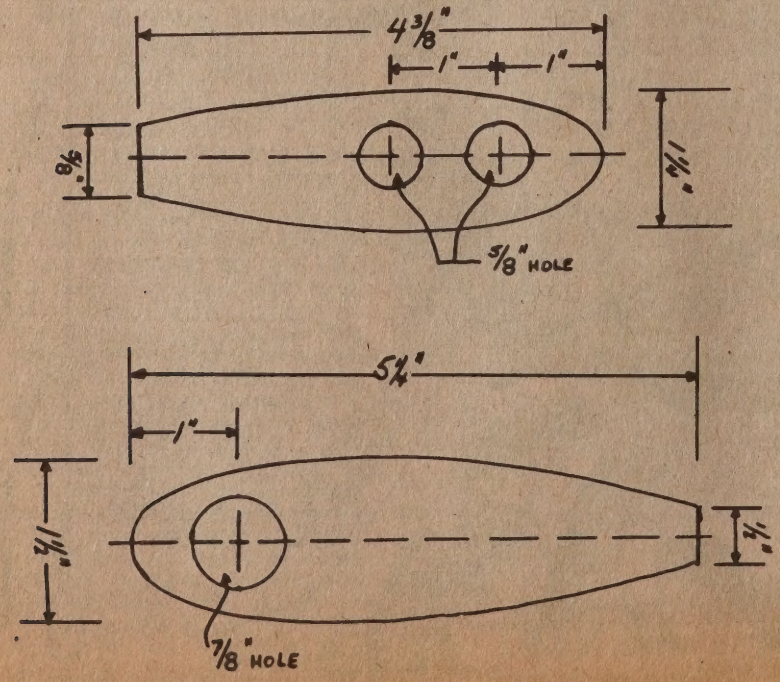
The Rabbit is basically a top-water lure, used when the fish are on top chasing bait. The lure is cast out and retrieved fast, making it skip across the wave tops. Don't worry too much about the rate of retrieve; if a fish wants it, he'll catch it. These plugs are heavy lures and designed for long casts. They're perfect for days when the fish are just a little too far off the beach for standard surface plugs. The two sizes of Rabbits outlined in this article weigh 3½ and 4 oz. If you wish, you can make them smaller or larger by changing the lead weight size.

I use three-quarter inch pine shelving that I scrounge up; but any three-quarter inch stock can be used. The pine is very easy to work with, so I try to stick with the shelving. The dimensions are shown in the drawings for the two plugs.

Cut out the shape, using a coping or band saw. Cut out at least six to twelve of each size to make it worthwhile. After the lures are cut out, get some coarse grit sandpaper and sand the edges and round off the corners.

Next step is to drill the lead weight hole. On the large lure, the hole is 7/8"; on the small lure there are two 5/8" holes. I use high-speed spade bits that have a 1/4" shank; this allows the bit to be used in a power drill. Drill half-way through the wood or until the tip of the bit comes through the other side, then turn the lure over and drill in from that side. Doing this will give you good edges around the hole. If you drill straight through, the bottom side might tear out as the bit comes through the wood.

You can now drill the through-wire hole. I use an eighth of an inch aircraft drill bit, twelve inches long. Drill in from the face of the plug through to the lead weight hole. Now take the bit out and reverse the plug; complete the through hole by drilling in from the rear of the plug. Both these holes should be drilled as accurately as possible. After the plugs are all drilled, get some 1/16" or 3/32" thick stainless steel welding rod, which can be bought at a local welding supply house and is sold by the pound. Bend an eye on one end of the wire. This can be done by wrapping the wire around a quarter-inch screwdriver blade and pinching it with a pair of pliers. Leave about one inch on the short end. Now, insert the through wire into the back of the lure. Pull the wire up snug and cut off the wire with about three inches sticking out of the lure; now make another eye at the front of the plug. The reason you insert the wire from the rear is, as lead is being poured into the weight hole, it locks the through wire into place and the through wire locks the lead into place. You are now ready to pour the lead.

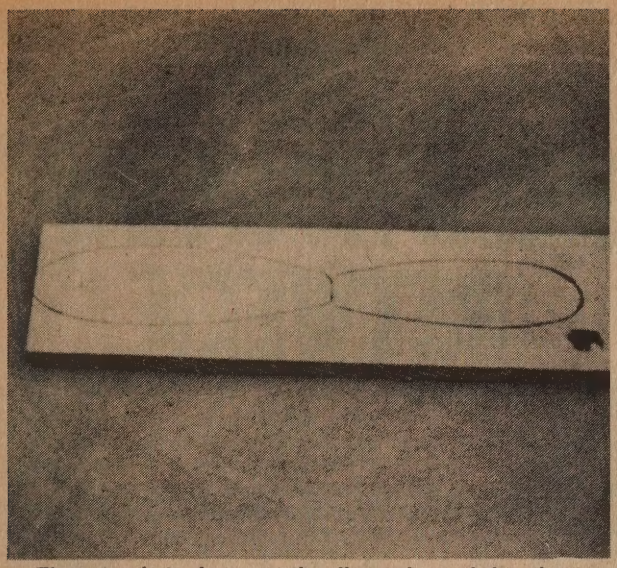


Get a flat, non-combustible surface, like a piece of steel or aluminum; lay the plug on the surface and when the lead is totally melted and good and hot, pour some into the weight hole. Fill the hole completely; you should get fairly flat surfaces on both sides of the lure. You may want to hold the lure down as you pour the lead, so be careful and don't get burned. If possible, use a vise or a C clamp to hold the lure.

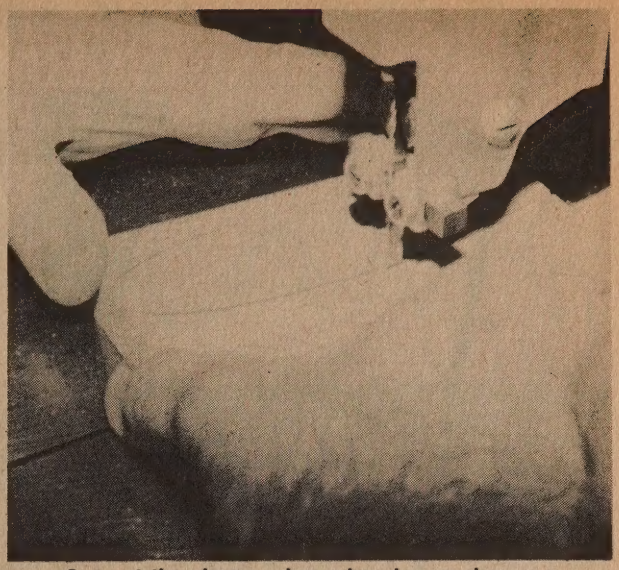
If you want to protect the lures from splitting, you can dunk them in boiled linseed oil for forty-five seconds. Don't leave them in the linseed oil for much longer than forty-five seconds because the finish might not stick. I don't bother with this step with these plugs because they are so fast and easy to make.

As far as color and hook size is concerned, it is basically up to you. It depends on fish size and the time of year when selecting a color. I use white or yellow and an open eye 2/0 triple strength treble hook, Mustad pattern #35505.

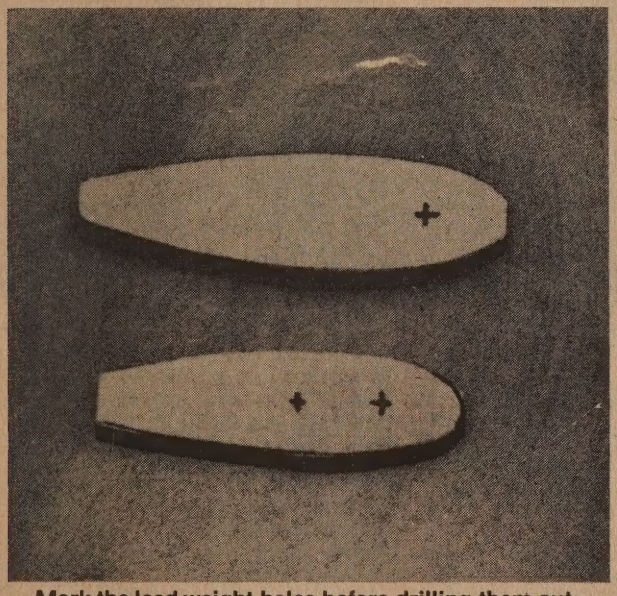
It's a good idea to carry a couple of these plugs along for those days when the blues are beyond the reach of an average cast. Don't carry too many or your lure bag will be hanging down around your ankles. I always carry at least one of each with me whenever I'm on the beach and believe me, they are just as good on Long Island as they are on Nantucket for those big choppers.



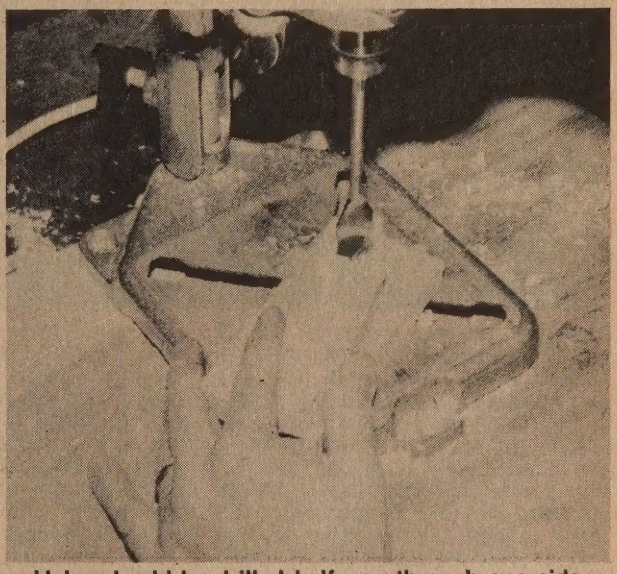
First step is to draw out the dimensions of the plug.



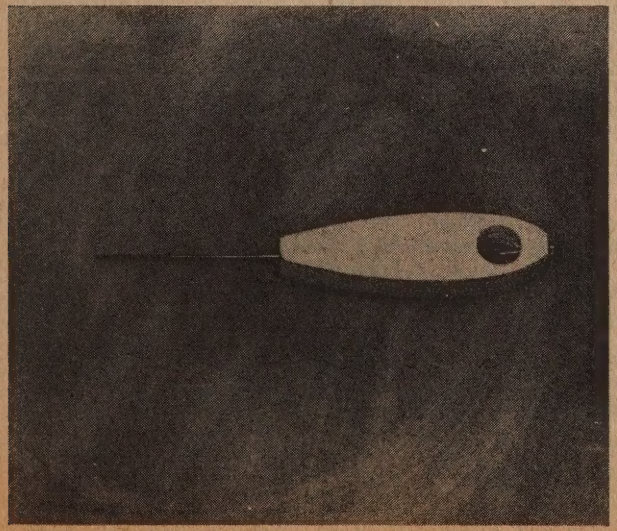
Cut out the shape using a band or coping saw.



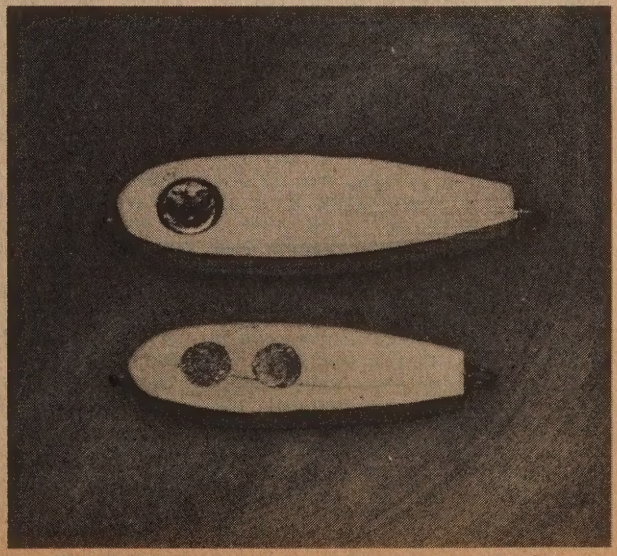
Mark the lead weight holes before drilling them out.



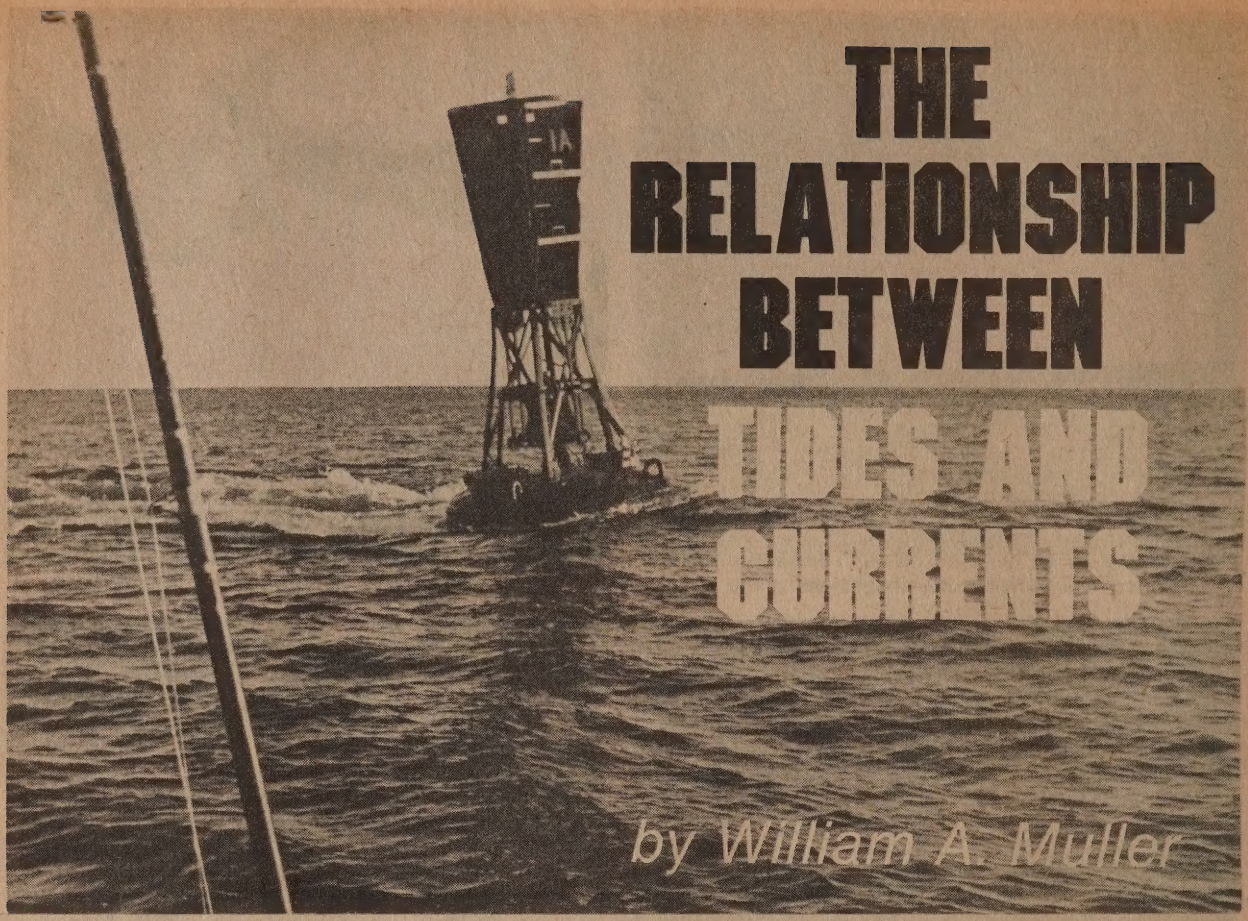
Holes should be drilled half-way through one side and then completed from opposite side.



When lead is poured, through wire will be locked into place.



The finished product ready for paint and hooks.



THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TIDES AND CURRENTS

by William A. Muller

In one of the last issues of 1980, I addressed my Fish Talk column to the topic of tides and currents. This is a question that comes up again and again from readers and with good reason. In the Fish Talk column, I discussed mostly tides and the fact that current changes do not always correlate with tide changes. Although many readers expressed to us that that discussion was helpful, many asked for a more elaborate discussion of currents. In this article then, I'll attempt to provide some information about why currents are often timed differently than the tides. To help illustrate this discussion, I have prepared several diagrams, which accompany this article. One could literally discuss this topic indefinitely in order to cover every aspect and thought, but obviously, we do not have the time or the space for that. Thus, I'm attempting to give a distillation of the key aspects and we'd like to know from you how helpful, or perhaps confusing this discussion has been for you. If we need further explanation, we'll attempt to fit it in at a later date.

I'll assume that most folks understand the relationship between the moon and the tides. Simply, the moon has mass and thus there is a gravitational pull of the moon on the earth. Since the ocean water is extensive and it is fluid, it is the water that tends to move, or bulge, towards the moon. Incidentally, the land bulges too, but its movement is imperceptible to the average person without instruments to measure it. When the moon is closest, the tidal ranges are greatest and when the moon is further away, the tidal ranges are at a minimum. Generally, the moon is closer during the full moon period and, therefore, the tidal ranges are greater and the force of tidal currents stronger.

I'll also assume that most of us understand the relationship between storms and tides. Coastal storms (those that travel up the East Coast close to the coastline) produce east and northwest winds. These winds force water towards the coast and accentuate the high tide and reduce the range to low tide. Strong winds off the ocean will also delay the change of tide. Usually this delay is a matter of one-half hour to an hour; but when the winds reach forty, fifty, or more miles per hour on a sustained basis, the delay can be as much as three hours.

Thus tide charts are only estimates—guidelines for the boatman and fisherman to approximate the timing of his or her activities. Too often, people involved in marine recreation will fail to take these factors of moon and wind into consideration and as a result, they find themselves to be too late or too early on the fishing grounds. The tidal charts do take the moon's position into effect because its position will be predictable. However, no one can predict the weather conditions with any certainty well in advance, and thus this factor is ignored by the tide table makers. The tide tables, therefore, assume ideal conditions which may occur commonly in the summer when weather conditions are stable for long periods of time, but in the spring and also in the fall, the weather changes rapidly, coastal storms are common, and winds usually blow fairly hard from one direction or the other.

For purposes of our discussion, I'll explain currents in this same light. That is, I'll assume ideal quite summer-like conditions. The fisherman can find this information useful then, only if he or she makes continuous observations of the effects of moon and weather conditions on the currents in favored fishing locations. The more time the fisherman invests in making observations and recording these in his or her fishing log and the more trips the fisherman makes to the grounds, the better he or she will be able to gauge both the tide and the currents under a wide variety of conditions. With these assumptions in mind, let's take a look at currents.

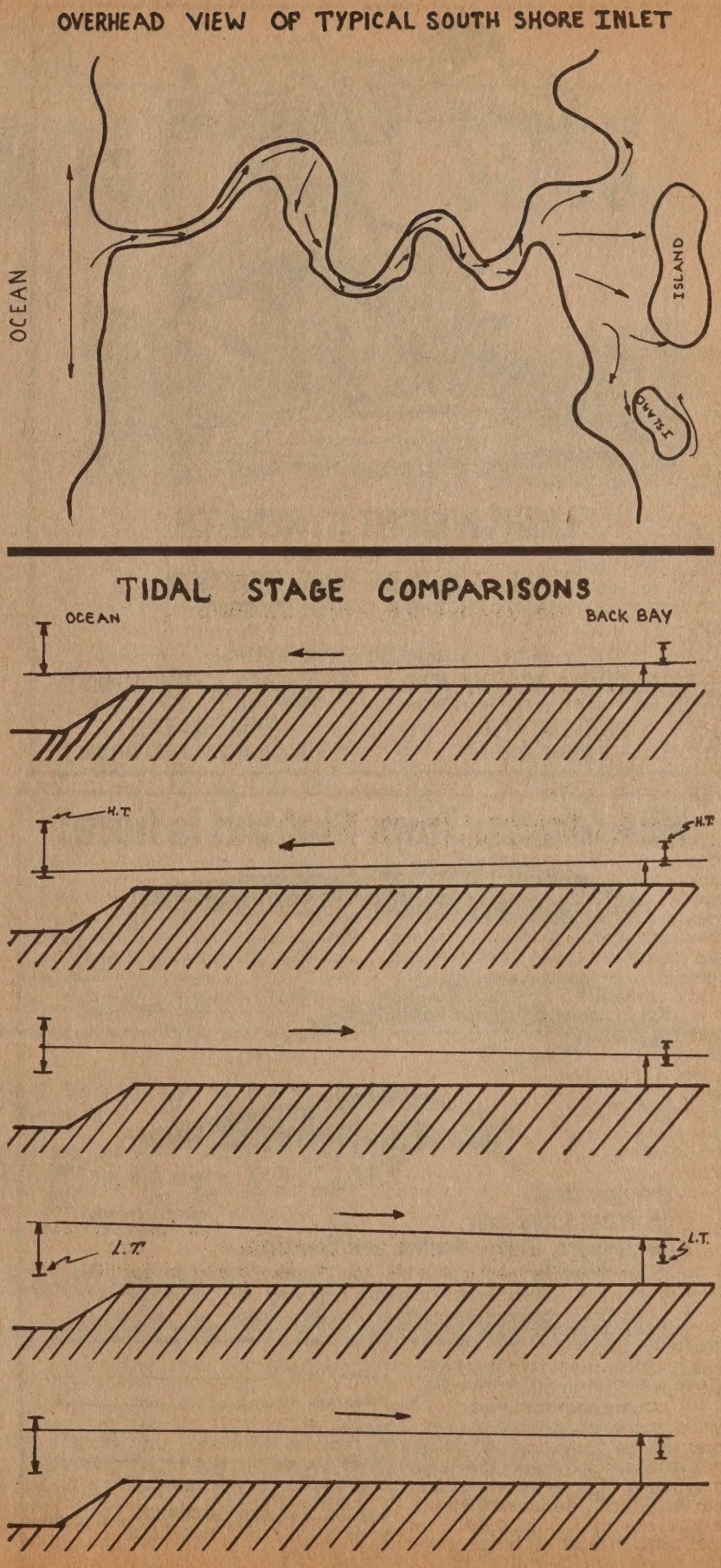
The first thing to remember is that the relationship between tide and current will vary from place to place. In the open ocean tide change and current change will often occur at about the same time. Fifteen to twenty-five minute differences on the open sea are about par. Such a small difference may never be noticed by

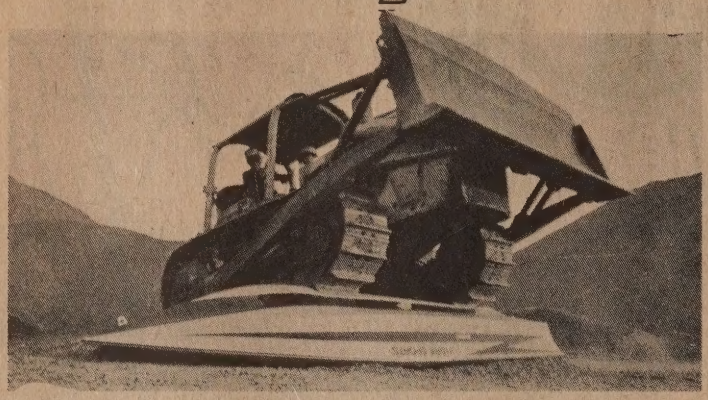
most fishermen. At the other extreme is the complicated back bay areas. Here, currents may begin two to three hours (perhaps even more) after the change in the tide. The further back into the bay you go, the greater will be this difference. Also, the more complicated the back bay is in terms of topography, the greater will be the difference between tide change and current change.

Look at the first diagram of an overhead view of a typical south shore inlet. Note the fact that the inlet entrance is a constriction. Second, notice that the inlet bends or meanders through the land into the bay. Finally, notice that the topography of the bay is itself rather complex with irregular shore lines and islands situated at irregular intervals. All of these—the constriction, the meandering, and the irregular topography—offer resistance to the flow of water. This resistance produces friction which tends to retard the free movement of water. This is the most important fact to keep in mind. It is much the same as pouring a liquid from a large bottle with a very narrow opening. Even if you hold the bottle upside down, there is a limit to the speed at which the water can come out. The opening, which is narrow, offers resistance to the flow of the liquid. The arrows on the diagram shows how the irregular topography deflects the water and drives it into the bank, thus delaying its progress. Although these physical factors cause us a problem in that it creates a difference between tides and currents, it is also a blessing because it is the attempt of the water to push through this relatively narrow opening that creates the strong currents and it is the deflections of the currents that causes the eddies and up-wellings. These currents and up-wellings move bait along and trap it, making ideal sites for game fish to feed. Thus don't be too quick to damn the delayed currents and the topographic features that caused it; rather, take the time to learn how your area "works" with respect to these factors.

Now, as the tide rises in the nearby ocean it builds up a pressure at the mouth of the inlet because the water level in the ocean becomes higher than that in the inlet or the back bay. Back to the bottle example. The bottle is almost full and the liquid backs up against the opening. Yet it does not rush through all at once because it meets resistance. Likewise at the inlet. One might think it impossible for the water level in the ocean and that of the bay to be different. Certainly when we look at it we cannot see this. However, we can't see it only because the slope between the higher water and the lower water is very gradual and spread out over many miles. However, just like the liquid in the bottle there is a difference. This difference may amount to several feet between the open ocean and the very

(Continued on next page.)





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extreme back bay points.

The pressure of more water in the ocean forces water into the inlet and the bay. However, the tide in the ocean reaches its highest peak and begins to ebb long before the level of water in the back bay reaches the height of the high tide in the ocean. Thus, the current continues to move IN to the back bay even though the tide in the ocean is ebbing. The second series of diagrams shows this relationship. In the first drawing, the tide is low in the ocean, but a little higher in the bay because the water meets the same resistance going out that it did going in. Thus, the current is going **out** in the first drawing. In the second drawing the tide is rising in the ocean. However, the water level in the bay may still be higher than that in the ocean and as a result, the current is still going **out!** In the third drawing the water level in the ocean is now high enough that the current can reverse and starts moving into (IN) the bay. In the fourth drawing the tide has reached its peak in the ocean, but the slope is still pitched into the bay because resistance has prevented the flow into the bay. In the fifth drawing, the tide is ebbing in the ocean, but its level is still higher than that in the back bay and although the water level is falling in the inlet, the current is still moving into the bay.

Current tables are available from the Coast Guard and these may help the boatman and fishermen to deal with the lag of current behind the tide. Yet these are only estimates, too. They are compiled with the notion of what the average delay in current is at a given location when the moon phase and position are taken into account. In the final analysis then, it is up to the fisherman to explore his or her favorite areas and become familiar with circumstances there. I'd suggest the following approach. In your log enter the following categories: moon phase, date, wind speed, and wind direction. Now also meter the time of high tide as predicted in the tide tables and the time that the current actually changes as well as the time that the current reached its strongest force. After one year of keeping these records, examine them and try to find relationships between these data and the current changes you have observed. For example, you may discover that the average current delay is one-and-a-half hours, but that when the wind blows strong from the west that the current is delayed two hours or that the start of the current isn't delayed but that the timing of the strongest force is delayed. These facts vary from spot to spot and this one unique characteristic of each location also helps to explain why it is difficult for any fishermen to consistently produce at more than a half-dozen locations, year-in and year-out.

Did we help? We'd like to know. Good fishing.

ROD OF THE WEEK:

PARTY BOAT MEAT STICK

by Pete Barrett

Party boat fishermen are faced with the problem of carrying a limited amount of tackle on board with them, and yet that limited tackle must be able to be used for a variety of fishing situations. Many is the day when the bluefish aren't hitting diamonds and the action is all on bonito hitting small bucktails. Or, the fluke seem to have lockjaw, yet schools of blues or weakfish are virtually everywhere.

It would be ideal if one rod could be used in every situation, and although this isn't exactly possible, we can come close to an all-around party boat rod that will handle anything from fluke to chopper blues.

Many party boat anglers are finding that there is an advantage to using a rod slightly longer than the old-time short, stiff sticks of a decade ago. Rods of only five feet in length are rarely seen now, with most railbirds now fishing with six and seven foot rods and a few with longer sticks of eight feet.

There are several advantages. The additional length keeps the line away from the boat and causes fewer tangles. The longer rods are more tiring to the fish and beat the big blues faster. The extra length also allows an edge when you have to cast a Hopkins, bucktail or diamond jig out and away into the slick.

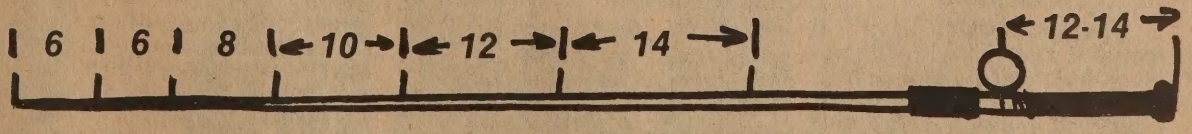
The actions of the blanks can be altered to serve up a rod with a reasonably light tip, or the blanks can be chopped off at the tip to make a very stout rod. Fishermen who find more pleasure in hauling fluke, weaks and summer blues over the rail will no doubt prefer a lighter tip, while the guy with his sights set on chopper blues, tiderunner weaks, small tuna, bonito and cod will look for a rod with less tip action. Keep in mind that too light a tip can be broken if you have to swing fish over the rail unaided by a mate with a gaff. Too stiff a rod can be difficult to fish with when you must feel the short, sniping hit of a fluke. Too stiff a rod can also overpower a fish so much that you can literally rip the hooks from the jaws of some fish.

There are only two graphite blanks that I know of that would be suitable for this type of fishing and both are based on the Lamiglas GBT series blanks. The lighter of the two is the GBT841M, while the stiffer blank is the GBT841H. The "H" blank is stiff enough to even be used for tilefish or jigging cod on the banks with the heaviest of diamond jigs.

The most durable **Grips** will be the cellite foam kind, but some anglers may prefer the cork rings or cork tape double-wrapped for hand comfort. The **Reel Seat** must be of the sturdiest kind so the lightweight aluminum seats will not be suitable. For storage. so the blank breaks in two sections, I have seen a number of party boat fishermen going to the offshore, big game style reel seat that has a detachable gimbal joining the blank inside the seat. It does make the rod more convenient for travel, but does also add some extra weight.

Tips. The heavy duty FUJI DHG guide or the Perfection braced guides are ideal for this rod. They are impossible to wear out and are lighter in weight than the carbide guides. We have seen several rods of this type made with roller guides for deep fishing for tilefish or cod, but most fishermen will not have use for that kind of special rod. If the tip feels heavy while fishing, you can add a small amount of lead weight just inside the butt cap, epoxied in place to make the rod balance better while tucked under your arm. It will weigh slightly more, but will actually feel lighter because of the perfect distribution of the entire weight. Some rods we've seen have had a gimbal nock at the butt end covered with a small rubber butt cap. When fighting large fish with the aid of a belly belt, it is easy to quickly remove the rubber cap and slip the gimbal into the slot in the belt.

PARTY BOAT MEAT STICK



GUIDE SPACING GIVEN IN INCHES. TRIMMING FROM TIP END OF BLANK MAKE ROD STIFFER AND MORE SUITABLE FOR DEEP WATER FISHING. A LIGHTER, BUT STILL STRONG TIP ACTION, MAY BE PREFERRED FOR WEAKS, SMALLER BLUES AND FLUKE FISHING.

★ 1980 ★ RECORD ASSAULT

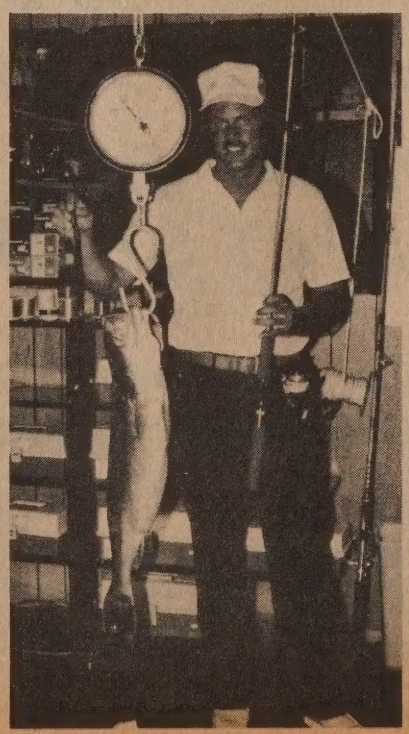
by Fred Golofaro

The 1980 fishing season might well be remembered as the year Long Island Sound put itself on the map. Three new International Game Fish Association world records were established in this finger of brine nestled between Connecticut and the north shore of Long Island. They weren't just run-of-the-mill records either, as two of the three were truly once-in-a-lifetime fish and the third was certainly no slouch.

Back in July, John Baldino, of Norwalk, Connecticut came within one pound of shattering the all-tackle record for striped bass with his 71 lb. cow. No less significant was the 17 lb. 14 oz. weakfish taken in the rips off of Eaton's Neck by William Herold of Rye, New York. Glenn Dennis, of Ridge, New York, rounded out the trio of record setters when he put away a 64 lb. striper on 60 lb. test, thereby establishing a new leader in the 80 lb. class category. His fish was taken at the eastern extremity of this fertile body of water.

Whatever surprises Long Island Sound holds in store for anglers in 1981, the 1980 season will be a tough one to top.

For an account of what really took place on the days which each of these three anglers will remember for the rest of their lives, we asked them to recount the event in their own words. John Baldino's story is the result of an interview with New England Fisherman editor Tim Coleman, while William Herold and Glenn Dennis each depict in their own words what transpired on those fateful days.



RECORD ONE: JOHN BALDINO

He Almost Did It.

It was 7AM on July 14. My fishing partner, Robert Ruther, and myself were anchored up on Great Reef off the southwest point of Sheffield Island in my sixteen foot outboard. Out of the corner of my eye, I thought I saw my bait, a live bunker, come to the surface. Just after that, the big fish swirled on the bait for the first time. Fifteen minutes later, she came up and took the bunker in earnest. Throughout the ensuing fight, I was concerned with being cut off on one of the many rocks in the area and at one point, during one of the fish's two strong runs, we seriously considered

starting up the motor as she threatened to empty my Penn Jigmaster spool of its 30 lb. Maxima Mono. Eventually, the Shakespeare Ugly Stik and one final lunge at boatside sapped the last of her strength. It had been twenty minutes since hook-up and now the striper lay on the deck covered by a wet towel. Neither of us thought the fish was **that** big. We were figuring she would be in the 50 lb. range.

We stuck it out awhile longer and it was nearly an hour later when the scale at Westport Tackle revealed 71 lbs. The bass measured 50½'' long and had a girth of thirty-four inches. Two months later, it was recognized as the new IGFA 30 lb. class world record. The fish was mounted by Fish Unlimited Taxidermy. My biggest striper prior to this had been a thirty-two pounder!

RECORD TWO:
WILLIAM HEROLD
A Day to Remember.

No different than a thousand others, this pre-dawn found myself and first mate Frank Anderson running at twenty-two knots on a 90° course from our berth in Rye, New York. Target for the day were the rips off Port Jefferson, N.Y., which were presently playing host to a substantial body of tiderunner weakfish. We throttled down off of Cranes Neck and began to rig rods with jelly worms and squid strips amongst the Christmas-like display of red and green navigation lights which assured us that loneliness would not be the problem we had hoped for. No matter, as the weaks this fine day were hell-bent on suicide. From the moment that we layed out our two flat lines with jelly worms we fought fish for the better part of four hours. When I slid the net under Frank's thirteen pounder to start things off, I should have known this was to be a special trip. At approximately 6:30 a.m. on that memorable day, I set-up on a weakfish which now adorns the pages of the International Game Fish Association's book of world records. I was employing a custom-made 6½' magnum spinning rod (Lamiglas blank) coupled with a Zebco Cardinal #4 reel loaded with eight pound clear Ande line. As stated earlier, the lure of note was a grape Tom Mann jelly worm strung on a half-ounce jig head. I was merely twitching the rod ever so gently when the record breaker responded. There was little more than an almost imperceptible hesitation to signal the pick-up of the big weak. I set the hook and was rewarded with a little bit of history! It's good practice when weakfishing to come back on any pause, irregularity, or whatever. More often than not the result is a netted weak.

The fish was precisely 17 lbs. 14 oz. when officially tabulated that evening. During the battle, I had no idea of the fish's great size because the fight was little more than that of some of the ten to thirteen pound fish we had boated previously. When the fish grudgingly gave way some three minutes later and knifed to the surface, both Frank and I immediately recognized the outlandish girth this old girl had. Too big for the fish box which was already laden with close to 100 lbs. of squeteague, we layed the huge tiderunner on the floor near the transom and draped it with damp towels. That afternoon we returned to our mooring with more than 165 lbs. of weakfish. All were caught on either grape jelly worms or squid strips; with the majority succumbing to the rods adorned with Mann jelly worms.

There is no way to personally translate or do justice to the memory of that fine fish on a day when all was right with the world. A necessary word of thanks must go to Frank Anderson for his understanding, patience, and good company on a day which is indelibly etched in my soul.

RECORD THREE:
GLENN DENNIS
Breaking The 60 lb. Barrier

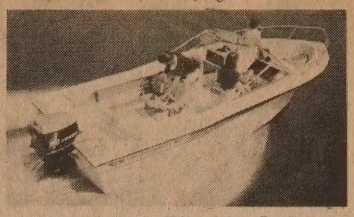
Daybreak, July 18, 1980. Plum Gut, Orient Point. Dawn would break with clear skies and the wind a whisper out of the northwest.

First drift with a live herring and a pick-up. I set the hook and fortunately the fish is positioned behind a bottom peak so that the fear of being cutoff is greatly diminished. After making two hard, long runs of about 150', the striper came straight up and broke the surface a good distance from the boat. Most of the fight was out of her as she swam directly at me with her dorsal fin slicing the surface. I reeled slow and steady and by the time the distance between us was narrowed to thirty feet, I realized just how large this fish was. I held my breath as the gaff bit home.

I fished out the remainder of the tide but did nothing, not even a bluefish. When I got back to the dock at Orient-By-The-Sea Marina, Marge Haas and her son Bob were there to greet me. A few other people gathered around and I figured the fish would probably go about 55 lbs. When we put the fish on a certified scale and it read 64 lbs., I turned to Marge and exclaimed ''I finally broke the 60 lb. mark!'' It wasn't till that moment that I even entertained the idea of a sixty. After taking some photos of my trophy, I took it to Eastern Taxidermy in Farmingville for mounting.

It wasn't until two days later that a friend of mine, Barry Ascher called to inform me that I had caught a potential world record. I submitted my application accompanied by line samples and photos. Three months later my catch was officially recognized by the International Game Fish Association as a new 80 lb. class world record.

Thank you Barry Ascher and thanks to that ten inch herring that looked so good to such a wise, old fish. She must have seen many a bait go by in her lifetime.



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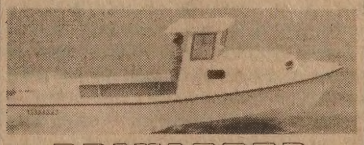

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BASIC KNOTS

Part One — *by Gerald Hahn*

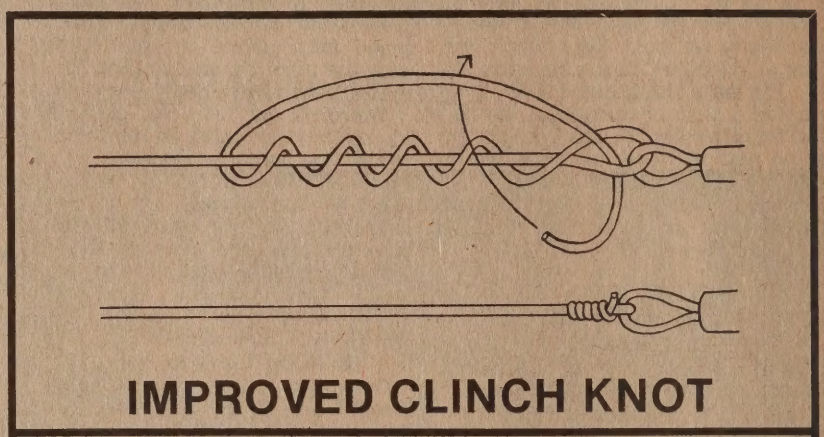
One day on a party boat going for codfish, an incredible tangle occurred, as happens when a large cow is gaffed and brought over the rail. The mate had to clear at least half-a-dozen rigs—single hook rigs, two hook rigs, some with hardware and plastic tubing—and to save time, he clipped all the lines. Most people were able to rig up again in short order, but a few beginners stood there helpless. They did not know how to tie a dropper loop for the snelled hook and an end loop for the sinker. In one case, after the mate tied the end loop for him, the novice could not figure out how to put his sinker through it.

This article (the first of two) is intended for such a person, and more experienced anglers may discover some simpler variations of knots they already know, as well. Many articles that I and others write are based on the assumption that the reader can tie the knots indicated. After all, there are many books devoted to basics, but most of them are so wide in scope that the novice is at a loss to figure out what he needs specifically for fishing in Long Island's salt water.

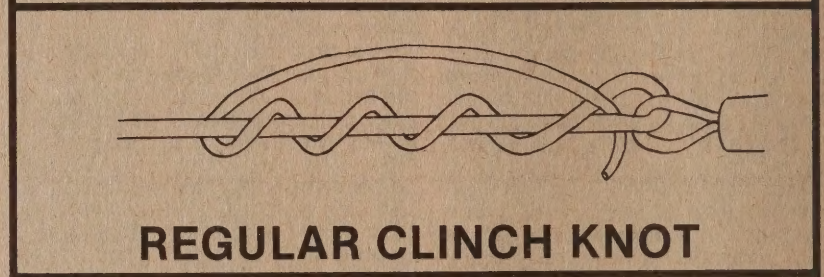
No matter whether the beginner goes surfcasting from a beach on Long Island Sound or the Atlantic Ocean, whether he fishes from a pier, bridge, or jetty, he only needs to know a few basic knots. Rigs and line weights may vary, but knots remain the same. Should the novice decide to rent a skiff for fishing in a bay or harbor, or if he steps aboard a party boat, he will still use the same knots. The lowly flounder rig makes use of the same knots as a rig geared for a 50 lb. striper.

"I want to go fishing," says the beginner. "Which knots must I know how to tie?" Three knots are the most important: the Clinch Knot, the Dropper Loop, and the End Loop. Add two more, the Blood Knot and the Snell (and perhaps one or two variations) and you will be able to cope with almost any fishing situation. In this article, we will cover the first three knots.

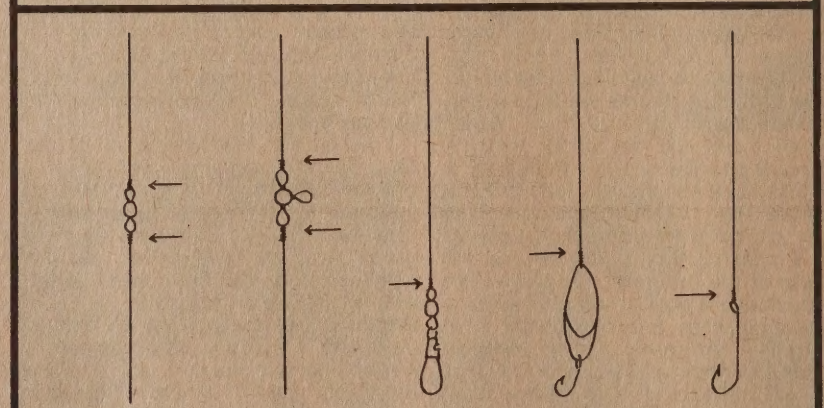
Clinch Knot. Almost every rig requires a clinch knot. If you want to connect some hardware to your line—a snap, a snap swivel, a barrel swivel, or a three-way swivel—use a clinch knot. If you want to tie a lure directly to the end of your line, a clinch knot will do the job. In fact, if you ever want to tie a plain hook directly to the end of your line, you can do no better than to use a clinch knot, even though today most hooks



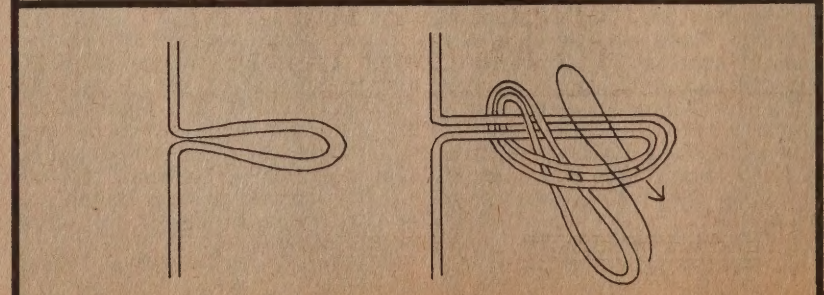
IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT



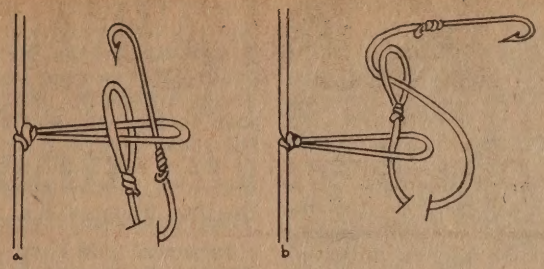
REGULAR CLINCH KNOT



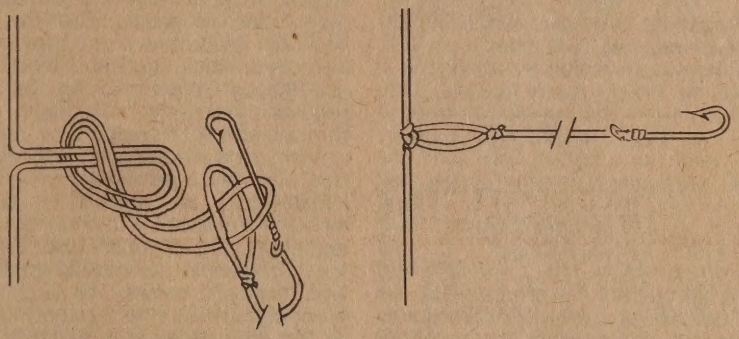
USES OF CLINCH KNOT



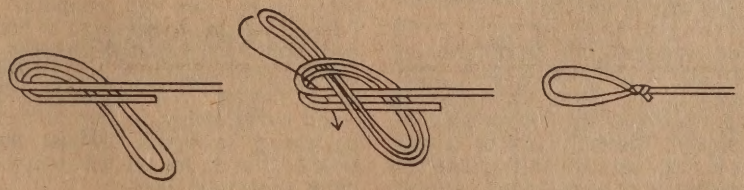
DROPPER LOOP



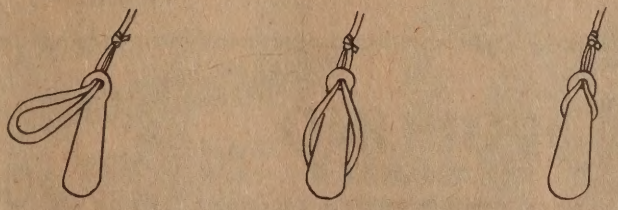
2 WAYS TO SECURE A SNELLED HOOK TO A DROPPER LOOP



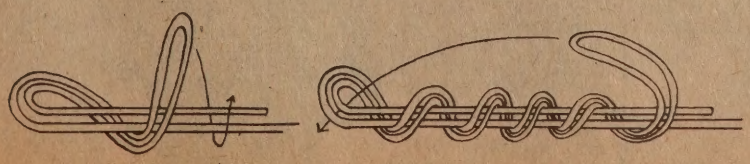
SIMPLIFIED DROPPER (NO LOOP)



END LOOP



CONNECTING A SINKER TO AN END LOOP



IMPROVED END LOOP

are pre-tied to a leader. The knot used here is called a **snell**, but many fishermen who tie their own hooks swear that a clinch knot is better and stronger than a snelled knot.

There are, however, two clinch knots you should know: the improved clinch knot and the regular clinch knot. The improved knot is generally used for lighter monofilaments, up to around forty pound test; with heavier line, the regular knot works better. The two knots are very similar, and if you learn one, you will know the other immediately.

Improved Clinch Knot. (Diagram 1). Pass the end of the monofilament through the eye of the object (a snap swivel, for example). Take hold of the end of the line and twist it around itself five times. Pass the bitter end through the first loop, the one closest to the swivel eye, and then pass it through the second (larger) loop formed as a result. Hold onto the bitter end, the loop, and the five twists lightly and pull slowly on the main line to tighten the knot. Make sure the five turns are snug and in a row, not wrapped chaotically around one another. To test the knot, pull the line against the swivel. It should not slip. Trim the excess off the bitter end, and for extra security put a lighted cigarette to the end. This creates a burr and prevents the end from slipping.

Regular Clinch Knot. (Diagram 2). Because heavier monofilament cannot be easily twisted around itself so many times (it is too stiff), a regular clinch knot is used. Begin again by passing the end through the eye of the object. Twist the line around itself only three times, and then pass the bitter end through the first loop. Do not pass it through the second loop. Now hold on, as before, and slowly pull the knot against the line until it is tight. Although this knot is simpler to perform, it is harder to tighten evenly because of the resistance of heavy monofilament. Some people lubricate the line with saliva before forming the knot. Make sure all the turns are snug and even, and test the knot by pulling hard. Remember, a fifty pound cod or a ten pound blue is going to be pulling against this knot, so don't be timid.

Diagram 3 shows the places where clinch knots are used. Before moving on to the other knots, it is important to know the difference between monofilament and leader material. They look the same, but monofilament is the line on your reel; leader material is the line on your pre-tied hook. Leader material is stronger than monofilament and will not stretch or kink as much. This is why it is used to tie hooks. Leaders are also used to prepare many rigs, especially for larger fish or when fishing over rough bottom. The leader serves as a shocker. For example, if you tie a hook onto ten pound test monofilament, a fifteen pound fish might

(Continued on next page.)

break it. But with a thirty pound test leader between the hook and the main line, it should hold. You may ask then, "Why not use 30 lb. test monofilament?" Surely it would also hold, but after you bring in the fish, you will notice that the monofilament is twisted and full of kinks; the next fish will probably break it.

Dropper Loop (Diagram 4). Most fishermen believe that the simpler a rig is tied the better. The idea is to eliminate as much hardware (and as many knots) as possible. Hardware costs money; it also attracts seaweed. Bluefish in a feeding frenzy have been known to bite a shiny swivel. Other species, such as striped bass, may become frightened by the sudden flash of hardware, particularly at night in calm water. A dropper loop, then, is a substitute for hardware; it replaces a barrel swivel, three-way swivel, or any similar link. Although there are some variations, the two we will cover are the simplest to tie: the dropper loop and the simplified dropper.

To tie a dropper loop, take hold of the monofilament or leader that has been added to the mono for a rig, say about six inches above the end. Form a one or two inch loop, and tie a double overhand knot with the loop. Do not tie more than two knots because it will weaken the line at this point. That's all there is to it!

To put a snelled hook onto a dropper loop, put the dropper loop through the loop of the snell. Then put the hook through the dropper loop, as indicated in diagram 5a. Another method (5b) is to put the loop of the snell through the dropper, and then slip the hook through its own loop, pulling it all the way through. Either way, you now have your snelled hook securely attached to the dropper loop, and you eliminated a piece of hardware.

Droppers can be tied anywhere on the main line or rigged leader, from an inch above the sinker for a flounder rig, to four feet above for a cod or weakfish rig. Several droppers can be tied at various points, as well. For example, a hi-lo rig requires two droppers—one for the bottom hook and one for the top hook. Always start from the bottom (the sinker end) and work your way up, tying the upper loop at a greater distance than the length of your snell. This will keep the baited hooks from tangling with each other. Some rigs for whiting or mackerel require as many as four to six droppers for as many hooks. Consider the saving in hardware and knots: with six three-way swivels you would have to tie twelve clinch knots.

Simplified Dropper Loop (Diagram 6). As simple as a dropper loop is to tie, there is an easier variation that is used on many party boats. One problem with the regular dropper is that the loop frequently sags under the weight of a baited hook, and the snell, particularly on a high hook, may tangle with the main line or leader. The simplified dropper corrects this to an extent.

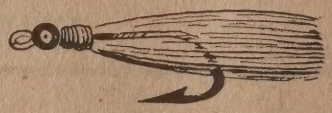
Form a loop as before, but this time tie it with just one overhand knot. Do not tighten it yet. Now slip the snelled hook onto the dropper (using either method already described) and tighten the dropper all the way. The snelled hook will stand away from the main line better than when a regular dropper loop is formed.

End Loop (Diagram 7). An end loop is actually a variation of a dropper, except—as the name implies—it is tied at the end of the line for securing the sinker. The loop on your snelled hook is also tied with an end loop or a somewhat more complicated variation called a perfection loop. Once again, we will cover the simplest ones. For tying on a sinker with an end loop, take hold of the end of your line and form a loop that is larger than the sinker. Tie a double overhand knot with the loop, and the knot is finished. Our novice on the party boat, who could not figure out how to put the sinker on this loop, need only pass the loop through the eye of the sinker, then pass the loop around the bottom of the sinker. Pull up on the line and—voila! the sinker is attached to the line! (Diagram 8.)

Improved End Loop (Diagram 9). This is a somewhat bulkier but stronger knot than the regular end loop. An improved end loop is similar to a clinch knot. In fact, it is a clinch knot tied with a doubled line. Form a large loop about six to eight inches long at the end of the line (or the end of your snelled leader). Turn the loop back on itself five turns (as in an improved clinch knot) and insert the end through the first loop (as in a regular clinch knot). Pull the loop through slowly to tighten.

Many rigs are tied with a combination of these basic knots. Improved clinch knots will connect a barrel swivel, for example, to the main line and leader; a dropper loop on the leader will hold the snelled hook; an end loop will secure the sinker. In other rigs that are connected directly to the main line, you can dispense with the clinch knot. Simply tie an end loop for the sinker and a dropper for the hook. Always start from the bottom and work your way up when using an end loop and droppers.

Practice tying these knots at home, and when you no longer need the directions or diagrams, you're ready to go fishing. You will also understand every article in this magazine pertaining to knots...almost every article, that is, for we will cover the other knots next week.



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COD

Capt Paul Forsberg, Jr. of the **Viking Star** again sailed his full winter sailing schedule this week, sailing Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday with very good results. Wednesday's trip saw 36 anglers deck 97 cod which included 6 hangers up to 43 lbs. High hook of the day was Frank Albaneese of East Patchogue with a dozen cod. Saturday's trip resulted in over 100 cod taken. Shark shooter Frank Bodinski of Lindenhurst ended up with 14 good cod in his bag (s). This fishing was done at the outskirts of Cartwright. Sunday's trip called for an excursion directly into the Cartwright grounds and the results were very good says the skipper. 130 cod were taken in the 3 to 12 lbs. range. This was all on bait. It would seem that if you are after a freezer full of cod fillets, now is the time to make the trip. Meanwhile, Capt Paul Forsberg, Sr. with the **Viking Starship** sailing out of Key West continues to have excellent bottom fishing off the Tortugas.

Ray and Cathy Semkow and Harry and Barbara Priggie with a batch of blues jigged at the Sub Buoy last summer on the charter boat Nostalgia II.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
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COD

CAPTREE

Capt Carmine of the charterboat **Rendova Island** has announced new low pre-Easter specials. See ad for details.

A nice catch of cod taken on the *"Viking Star"*, last Wednesday. In the center is Frank Abaneese of Patchogue with part of his catch of a dozen nice size fish. To Frank's right is the pool winner of the day, Mike McKee of Hampton Bays with a beautiful 43 pounder.

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The **Capt Bob Joseph** on Saturday's cod trip had 19 fares take 16 cod up to 40 lbs. On Sunday's trip 16 passengers belted a way and totaled 38 cod. The pool fish was a 42 pounder taken by Nick Charistakos of Miller Place. Nick also had 6 other cod. They fished the wreck in 130' of water SE of Fl Inlet. Besides the pool fish there were 6 other cod that went over 30 lbs.

Captain George Tweedy, of the open boat **Capt. Scotty,''** reported they were able to sail on both Saturday and Sunday. The ten or twelve fares aboard each day managed a few fish up to 30 lbs., but fishing is not what it was a few weeks back. The skipper said that all of the fish are now being taken from 120' of water on out.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★BEST BET★
COD

FREEPORT

Capt Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** tells us that Wednesday's fishing was good with cod in the 40s. The boat has been sailing all week since Wednesday, without any ice problems. Saturday 40 cod were taken along with 20 pollack up to 12 lbs. Sunday's pool fish tipped the scale at an even 40 lbs. Thursday's pool fish was another 40 pounder. Chet Chappel of East Rockaway bagged a 40 pounder on Thursday. Runner up was Rudy Schle with a 38 lb. cod. On Saturday's trip J. Jackson also decked a 40 pounder. There are quite a number of big fish being caught. Half of Saturday's pollack were taken on jigs, the other half on clam bait. The boat is fishing from south to east southeast of the Inlet.

Capt Al Lindroth of the **Capt Al** says that he believes the biggest codfish of the season was caught aboard his boat on Friday. A 63 lb. monster cod was hoisted up by Bayonne NJ angler Peter Petrick. Pete's eyes really popped as this fish

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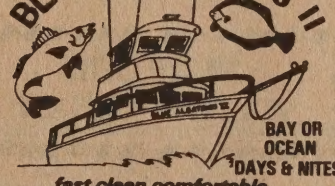

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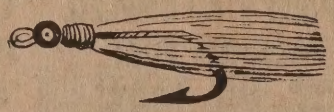
was gaffed and hoisted over the rail. On Saturday's trip Joe Bachinni of North Tarrytown NY did battle with and slew a 45 lb. cod. Lou Sullivan of Howard Beach decked a 42 lb. cod. East Rockaway angler Al Best decked a 40 pounder. On Sunday's trip Warren Cabaleiro of White Plains took a 48 lb. cod. Al says this is the time of year when records are broken, when the biggest fish come down into the cold waters off Long Island's south shore. The big fish, the trophys, are the ones that can take the cold. If you are looking for trophy cod, Cows, Lunkers, call them what you may, now is the time for tackle busting codfishing. Al says the fish are re-grouping and catches are improving every day.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** reported that on Saturday, despite running two hours, they were unable to locate any concentrations of whiting or ling. Sunday, however, was another story. Within an hour's run of port, fares enjoyed a leap job. Anglers bailed fish all day long and everyone finished up with all the whiting and ling they could carry.



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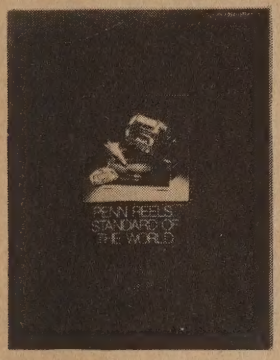
The first national Boat and Marine Equipment Theft Workshop, held at URI in 1979, was a major step towards trying to curb the increase in thefts of boats and marine equipment nationwide. Participants represented law enforcement and government agencies, universities, insurance companies, and private industry. Proceedings of the workshop, edited by Neil Ross of URI's Marine Advisory Service, are now available. They cover such topics as insurance, jurisdiction/enforcement, information systems, security tips for boat owners and 14 national recommendations for curbing thefts. Price: $2.00. P-838.



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Information that can help fly fishing enthusiasts match proper fly lines to types of fishing and tackle are contained in a new color-illustrated brochure available from Scientific Anglers/3M.

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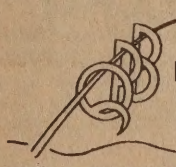

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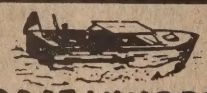

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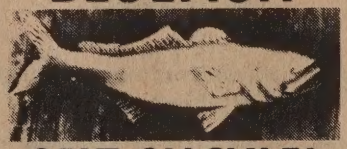
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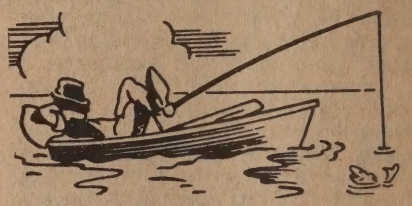

TACKLE DOCTOR:

(Continued from page 14.)

Daiwa shown here, remove the right side plate that holds the gears and handle. Apply a thin coating of grease on the gear bridge, springs, free spool lever and anti-reverse, then lay a bead of grease around the edge of the side plate to seal the whole works from any water penetration. A dab of grease or light oil to the spool shafts and the bearings is a good idea, and also to the click mechanism on the left side plate.

Apply a light coating spray of WD-40, CRC, or TriFlon to the entire inside of the reels, being careful not to oil asbestos drag washers. This light coating can be applied to bails, line guides, level winds, and the entire outside of the reel as an anti-corrosion protection.

In the next issue, we'll take a look at how to properly care for your reel after each fishing trip.

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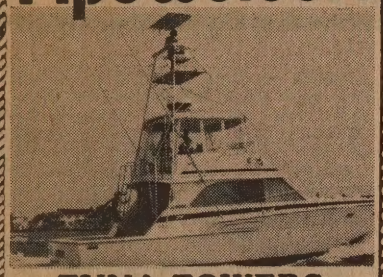

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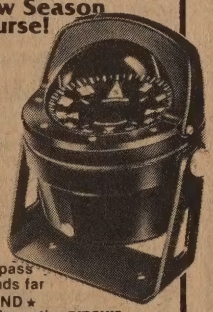

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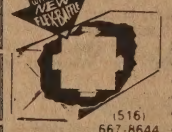

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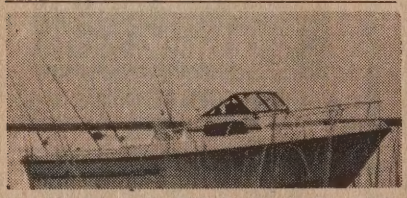

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NATIONAL SCENE:

(Continued from page 7.)

with more on the way. On the face of it, this isn't such a terrible thing. After all, the fish were taken in state waters by pound nets set for more valuable species. As William DuPaul, a spokesman for VIMS noted, these blues would have been sold in any case—with the surplus fish ending up as cat food.

The real problem here is the fact that a market has been developed in a relatively wealthy country for a species that usually brings low prices in the U.S. Coalition Director Chris Weld notes that this success story could well start a "gold rush" for the resource. It's important that a damper be put on this very real possibility by pushing forward with the bluefish management plan, getting a commitment from NMFS officials not to pursue foreign markets for bluefish, and seeking support from the states and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for a State/Federal management scheme.

As in the case of many other species, the time to act is now! Everyone is aware that preventive maintenance is the key to long life for automobiles and appliances. Yet, that obvious fact has not always been applied to marine fisheries management. There are still too many in responsible positions who insist that the fishery must decline first before any action should be taken. That's like letting your car grind to a halt before changing the oil and getting a lube job. However, in fisheries, the consequences of inaction are even greater. The car's parts can be changed and the damage corrected—even if at great cost. Unfortunately, there are no such happy alternatives for the marine fisheries. Once they slide backwards, our capacity to deal with the situation is imperfect at best—and frequently totally inadequate.

I take no pride in looking at a declining situation, such as we presently have with striped bass and bluefin tuna, and saying "I told you so many years ago." I'd much rather see those in charge take an aggressive stance in favor of conserving healthy resources, and get the credit for the continuance of good fishing in years to come!

Support Urged for NCMC

If you'd like to get the vital information contained in each month's issue of "Right Rigger" firsthand, and also aid the effort of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation to lobby for the nation's marine sport fishermen in Washington, then membership is definitely in order. For information on individual and club memberships, write to Mr. Ken Hinman, Assistant Director, National Coalition for Marine Conservation, P.O. Box 23298, Savannah, Georgia 31403.

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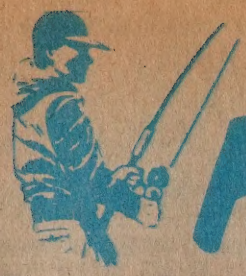

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